

Bucks County **PANORAMA**

APRIL 1975 60¢

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Rancher has 18 x 21 living room with see-thru fireplace to full size dining room. 10 x 19 kitchen has dishwasher and large dining area. Also 11 x 19 den and adjacent small office. Three bedrooms, bath and powder room. Attic storage — big cedar closet in hall. Very large full basement with radiant heat in the floor. Over-sized two car garage, picnic patio, fenced pool, large lot and privacy. Landscaped with beautiful shrubs and holly. Also, some fruit trees.

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"At the time and temperature sign"

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Bucks County PANORAMA

— The Magazine of Bucks County —

ESTABLISHED 1959

Volume XVII

April, 1975

Number 4

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COVER PHOTO: David Burpee, Dean of American Seedsmen, relaxes on the veranda of his eighteenth-century home at Fordhook Farms in Doylestown. Mr. Burpee will celebrate his 82nd birthday on the fifth of this month.

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POINT OF VIEW

DOYLESTOWN TODAY

by Frank X. Shelley

President — Town Action Associates, Inc.

Past President — Doylestown Chamber of Commerce

Past Exec. Sec'y. — Doylestown Merchants Assoc.

This article on Doylestown Today is being written in the air while travelling to and from Findlay, Ohio where the Doylestown Plan for Self-Help Downtown Renewal is being copied — remember "Operation 64"?

It is still going strong across this county and Canada. Perhaps we can "see" Doylestown clearer from 30,000 feet over Ohio and away from the concerns that are voiced about Doylestown these days — parking problems — the appearance of downtown — County offices talking about moving — competition on all sides from large shopping centers.

On the positive side, the 1975 Editor and Publisher annual survey shows that Doylestown is 9th in the nation in retail sales per household! There are over 17,000 communities listed in the survey which reports that Doylestown people have a total income of 54 million dollars but our stores will produce 124 million dollars of retail sales this year — an amazing job. Add to this the complete roster of medical and professional services available in Doylestown and you have a picture of basic strength through variety that will carry us beyond the current economic turnaround.

Certainly any assessment of Doylestown today has to build on the daily announcements of new housing developments on all sides — if just a fraction of these plans come to fruition in the next five years, the business community will profit if they are prepared to encourage these newcomers.

What does that entail? People must be pleased with the appearance of downtown — they must know that there is a place for their car — and there should be a series of special promotions to acquaint them with our goods and services. Is anything going on in Council — Merchants Association — Operation 64 to get ready? Let's take them in order:

At the urging of several organizations, Borough Council appointed a five member Parking Advisory Committee early in 1974. These people have taken several trips to other towns in nearby states to review successful parking programs and interview their town leaders; they met with several parking consulting companies to learn how their services might be useful to Doylestown. Borough manager Gardner Pearsall was appointed to prepare detailed surveys for the committee under salary from Council. The immediate future will include interviewing more consultants in order to recommend to Council that a complete professional parking survey is carried out covering the entire range of activities downtown. These include the Court House, railroad Commuters, and new office areas — a general parking program. Down the road someday is the formation of a Parking Authority to handle the long range and daily administrative details of this fundamental function.

At the most recent meeting with Council, the Committee presented a two part report — a list of eleven specific items that call for immediate action and a group of fourteen general recommendations for study and work during 1975.

On Beautification, it can be reported that the next step of Doylestown's "Operation 64" has begun. A Mall conference was attended in New York, a series of color slides of downtown malls was obtained, decision was reached to move ahead on additional beautification on Main Street and State Street in the form of more plantings, benches, lighting, wider sidewalks, one way traffic North on Main Street, additional parking to create a semi-mall atmosphere downtown.

A meeting was held with the Bucks County Planning Commission to discuss the survey they have begun of traffic conditions to be done by Penn Dot in light of changes which will occur with the opening of the by-passes. Not to be overlooked in any Doylestown beautification is the use of Mercer tile for street signs and building markers and the Mercer colors for the storefronts.

On Promotions, policy and details are now being set and worked on by a rapidly growing Promotion Committee of the Merchants' Association. They will decide on institutional advertising (Dynamic Downtown Doylestown), direct mail series of letters describing

Continued on page 43

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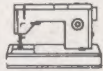
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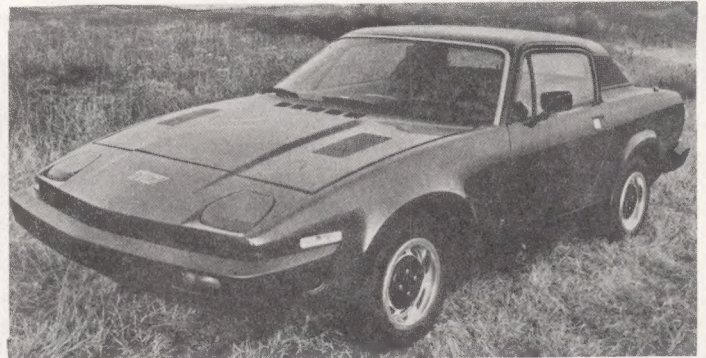
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for 1975**



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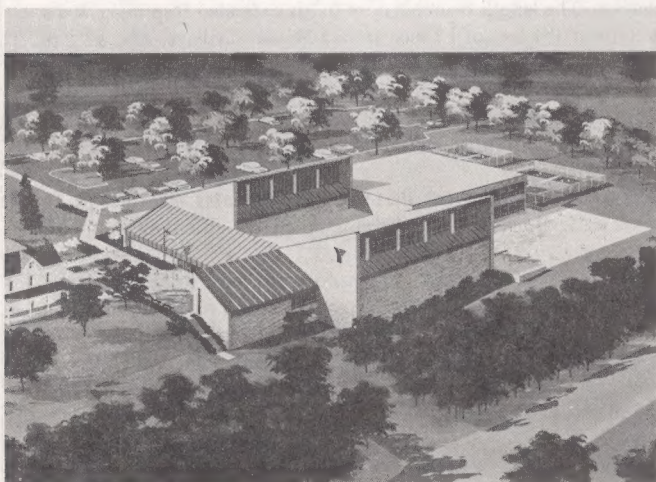
OSborne 2-1300

Between Friends

by Carla Coutts

April is always that month of the year when *Panorama* features Doylestown — the heart of Bucks County.

Many of our past issues have dealt with the famed Dr. Henry Chapman Mercer but how many of us knew about his brother, William? William Mercer's home is located just off Route 611, directly across from the Doylestown Shopping Center. The home of this branch of the Mercer family was recently known as the Ave Maria Seminary and is currently owned by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This historical property is for sale now and is in danger of becoming an 'annex' to the shopping center nearby, which in itself is an eyesore. In fact the location of the shopping center was the Chapman Farm — William and Henry's grandparents' home. Since the property of William Mercer was not willed to either the county or the Historical Society, Bucks County is in danger of losing yet another piece of local history in the name of progress and development.



With that in mind, we come to the new YMCA, also in Doylestown. The land, donated by David Burpee, was part of Fordhook Farms (See The Dean of American Seedsmen — page 26). The functional modern building, to be constructed in three phases, will be located near an old Burpee farmhouse which will remain on the property as part of the offices and classrooms of the "Y".

As you will recall, the old YMCA was destroyed by fire last year, and the "Y's" programs have been mainly centered in the farmhouse just outside of the center of Doylestown. The new building is desperately needed. So a major fund-raising campaign is in full swing. Very generous support from the entire Central Bucks community will be the keystone to their success.

The master plan for the new "Y" complex will include such facilities as:

- A double gymnasium
- Six-lane swimming pool
- A health club featuring exercise area
- Sauna and steam bath
- Massage and therapy rooms
- A squash and handball court
- Classrooms
- Game areas

The first fund-raising phase hopes to complete the gymnasium and classrooms areas.

The YMCA is strongly committed to serving the family as a unit — particularly the families of the Central Bucks area. The "Y" is turning to these families, their places of employment and the merchants they patronize, plus area corporations and foundations for major support in their campaign.

The philosophy of the YMCA is that a person is only whole when the mind, spirit and body are sound — through their diversified programs this goal can be achieved.

* * *

Panorama's May issue begins a new era for the magazine of Bucks County. We began publication 16 years ago, bringing our readers monthly news and history of this special place that we call home — Bucks County. It is one of the few counties in the United States that is well-known as a county and not just as individual towns. Our magazine reaches people all over the United States and Europe, with even subscribers in Hong Kong. You, our readers, no matter where you live, want to know about Bucks — her people, her arts, her history and her scenic beauty. Readers who live outside of our county may have lived here at one time or may have been one of the many thousands of visitors we receive each year. It is for you that we publish *Panorama* constantly trying to make it bigger and better — to give you more each month — more of what you want to know.

Our new era begins in May — with a new publisher — Gerry Wallerstein who has been on our masthead as a contributing editor for the past year. You will see some changes in the future but they will be for the benefit of giving you more for your money. ■

Panorama's Pantry

UPPER MAKEFIELD SOCIETY

Sunday, February 23rd, at the David Library of the American Revolution in Washington's Crossing, Pa. marked the official launching of an independent, non-profit, educational organization known as the Upper Makefield Historical Society.

The aims of the organization are "to stimulate, encourage, advance and promote interest in the historical heritage of Upper Makefield Township in particular, and the history and heritage of Bucks County, the State of Pennsylvania plus the nation in general; to cooperate with other historical societies and educational groups; and to communicate through releases, publications and meetings, matters of interest pertaining to history and preservation."

This founding meeting, convened by Mrs. Ruth P. Burton on behalf of the acting membership committee and a large group of interested residents, had as its purposes enrollment of Charter Members, and remarks by a panel of guest speakers which included host Sol Feinstone, Washington Crossing resident and philanthropist; Ann Hawkes Hutton, historian and writer; Ivy Jackson Banks, benefactor of the Washington Crossing Foundation; Gary Schuman, Executive Director of the Bucks County Historical Society and the Mercer Museum; Robert Pierson, Executive Director of the Bucks County Conservancy; Richard Walker of the Upper Makefield Historical Commission; and Dr. Victor Burke of the Upper Makefield Community Association.

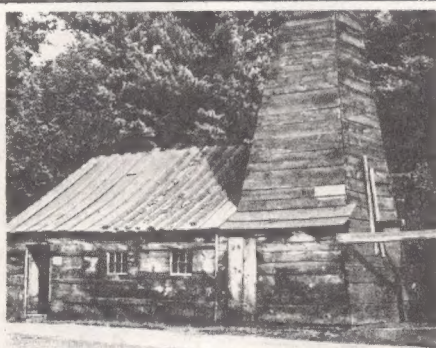
Each of the speakers described the work his or her particular group is involved in, and commented on the new undertaking.

"The important thing in recording history is to get the truth, and be truthful in what you teach others," Sol Feinstone advised in his remarks welcoming the new historical group.

In her brief message, prior to departure for Washington, D.C. to attend a national Bicentennial advisory meeting to which she was invited by President Ford, Mrs. Hutton remarked:

"The heritage that we all have in this area is envied all over the country. We are the custodians of the site that more people think of in association with Washington's Birthday and the American Revolution than any other, and the second most important site of the year 1776, the other being Independence Hall itself."

Families desiring to become Charter Members may contact Mrs. Burris at R.D. 1, Newtown 18940, or 968-2078.



DRAKE WELL PARK in Venango County where Edwin Drake struck oil in 1859 — the birth of the petroleum industry.

THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

Behind-the-wheel and armchair travelers alike should have the new 1975 edition of the *Guide to the Historical Markers of Pennsylvania*, published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The booklet gives an up-to-date listing of more than 1,350 historical markers erected and maintained by the Commission throughout the Commonwealth. The Guide may be ordered from the Commission for \$1.25 plus 8 cents sales tax, Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.



TO MARKET, TO MARKET

To buy a fat pig? No, not at the new Buckingham Farmers' Market. Just farm, nursery and orchard products and garden plants will be for sale at the market scheduled to begin in May.

Buckingham Township's largest industry is agriculture and the township's civic association is sponsoring this first annual market place in order to bring the farm and home-gardener producers together with the consumers. That's fresh-picked, good tasting nutritious food, folks! Not the tasteless stuff you've been eating all winter.

All growers are invited to display their products. The market will be an outlet ONLY for farm and homegrown produce, fruits, vegetables, eggs, honey, flowers, trees, shrubs and other farm processed products.

The opening day and location of the market place will be announced. If you are interested in participating contact: The Buckingham Civic Association, Box 211, Buckingham, Pa. 18912.

METRICALLY SPEAKING

Tradition has it that an inch was based on the distance from the tip of King Henry the First's forefinger to his first knuckle. The length from his nose to his extended forefinger was a yard. A foot was the average length of the feet of 12 men from a Medieval village. And an acre was the area of land a man with a yoke of oxen could plow in one day.

Interesting historical tidbits — but they have led us into a haphazard system of measurement that has been abandoned by all but 13 of the world's countries today.

The United States is the only major country left still using the old English system of measurement, and its years are numbered here.

One advocate of the metric system has estimated that the United States loses ten to 25 billion dollars annually in foreign trade alone because our measurements are out of line with world standards.

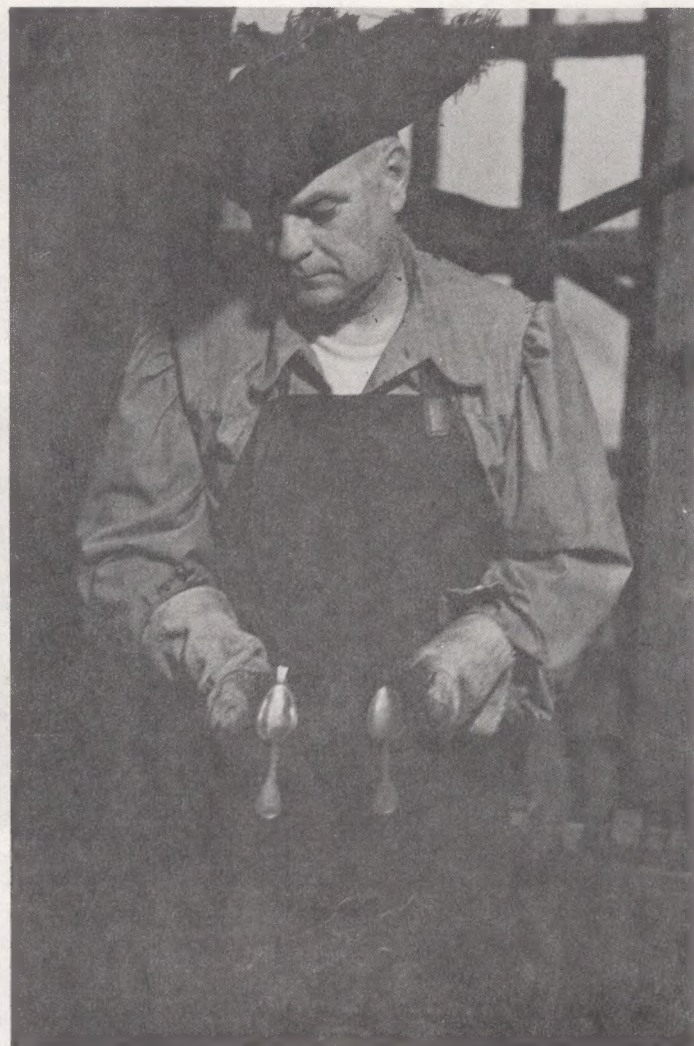
The metrics are coming but the conversion to this system does not have to be traumatic. Japan began its conversion in 1951 and ten years later the system came into total use. Planning for the changeover in Great Britain began in 1965 and the metric system got underway in 1970.

By teaching the new system to children just entering school, the gradual change will be easy. Older students, teachers and the general public will have to put some time on the study of conversion charts at first, but the results will be gratifying.

The metric system progresses logically in units of ten. Prefixes have the same meaning whether measuring length, area, liquid, volume or weight. The basic units are meters, grams and liters. Deci, as a prefix, means tenth; centi means hundredth; and milli, thousandth. Kilo means a thousand times. So a kilometer, which will replace the mile, means one thousand meters.

At first, simple conversion charts will help in the transition. If a recipe calls for 250 millimeters of cooking oil, the housewife will check the chart and find that means slightly over a cup of oil. Gradually the old tools will be replaced.

Edmund Scientific Co. has a mail order catalogue that offers, among its many diversified items, a full range of materials and accessories to keep you up-to-date on modern metric conversions. There is a Super Chart for a mere \$3.00 that covers it all. To obtain a catalog write: Edmund Scientific Co., Edscorp Building, Barrington, New Jersey 08007.



A FESTIVAL OF YESTERDAY

The second annual Mercer Museum Folk Fest will be held on the grounds of the Mercer Museum in Doylestown from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, be it fair weather or foul. Thirty-two craftsmen will demonstrate 18th and 19th century skills, and special events include uniformed militia drilling, the Wheelmen riding antique bikes, square dancing and folk singing.

Men and women versed in the arts of the early settlers of the Delaware Valley will explain their crafts which include cabinet making, book binding, herb culture, broom making, wool dyeing, spinning and weaving. Visitors at Folk Fest will see craftsmen working with pewter, tin, copper, silver, iron and wood. In the folk art area there will be exhibits of pottery done by wheel, Sgraffito, Tole ware, reverse painting on glass, Scheren Schnitte, which is paper cutting, and quilling. There will be demonstrations of butter making, goat herding, sheep shearing and beekeeping.

Folk Fest will show how our Delaware Valley ancestors met their concerns of day to day living and also how they provided their entertainment. One of the unusual demonstrations will be comb making from cow horns by a member of a family engaged in that hand industry since his great-great-grandfather emigrated to the Colonies from Germany, then joined the Continental Army taking his tool kit along, and between battles made combs to sell to the soldiers.

Another demonstration will concern 18th century house construction. Starting with a rough log, the explanation will proceed through taking off the bark with a barking spud, then broad axe squaring of the log and using an adze to smooth the timber. The skills of tongue and groove joining and of mortise and tenon fastening, also the use of hand saw, hand auger and draw knife will be shown.

The Bucks County Historical Society presents this Folk Fest where historical

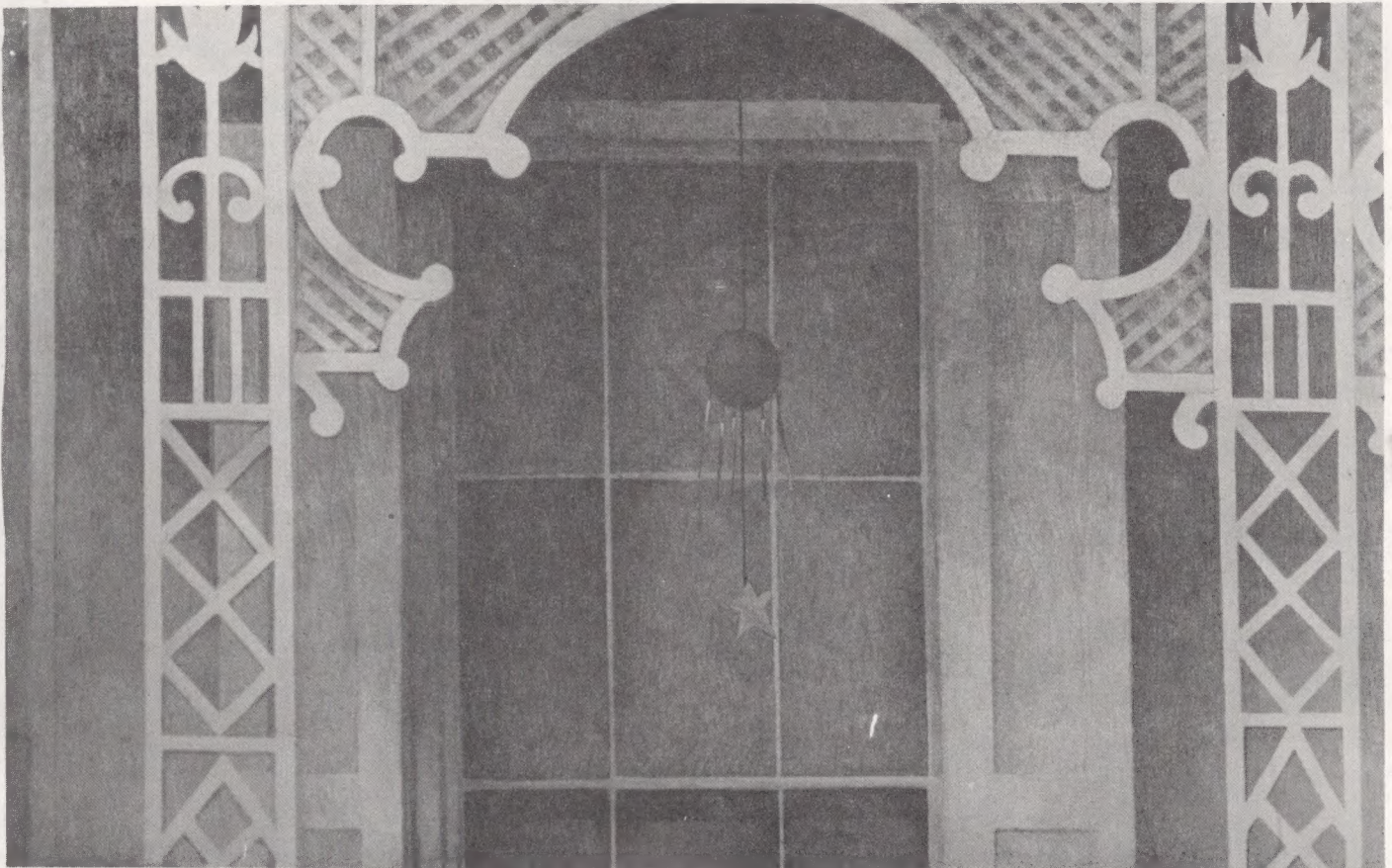
society staff and committee members will be on hand to assist both visitors and craftsmen. Some of the articles made by the craftsmen will be on sale. A portion of sale proceeds will benefit the historical society which owns and administers the Mercer Museum.

Admissions for guests are: adults, \$2.50; students 6-18, 50 cents; and children under six, free. For families there is a rate of \$5.00 regardless of the number of children in the family. Bucks County Historical Society members will have the benefit of special rates.

Sandwiches, cheese, homemade cookies, birch beer and coffee will be available for visitors.

The Mercer Museum, undergoing an expansion and improvement program, will be open to the public on May 3 at the regular museum admission fees. Please call the Mercer Museum - 215-438-4373 for further information about the Folk Fest. ■

continued



DESIGNS AT THE MILL

The unusual paintings and drawings of Katherine Steele Renninger – many of Victorian subjects – will usher in the 1975 season at the Stover Mill Art Gallery, River Road, (Route 32) Erwinna, Pa. The exhibit will open on Saturday, April 12th, with a reception from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. and will continue on week-ends through Sunday, May 4th. The Mill will be open on week-ends from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M.

Katherine Steel Renninger is one of Bucks County's best and most popular artists. She is a "native." She grew up in Feasterville and now resides in Newtown. She graduated from Moore College of Art. Subsequently she taught at St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N.J., and at Moore College. At the present time she is teaching painting at the Bucks County Community College.

Mrs. Renninger has won numerous awards, including several from the Phillips Mill – the Devecchi Prize in 1964, and the Second Patron's Prize in 1966, 1968 and 1974. Last year she was awarded second prize in the National Society of Casein Painters Annual Exhibition. Other awards include those from the Allentown Museum, Philadelphia Sketch Club, Woodmere Gallery, Cheltenham Art Center and the Pen and Brush Club, New York.

Mrs. Renninger has had 28 one-woman exhibits, and has been featured in exhibitions at the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the National Academy of Design; American Academy of Arts and Letters; the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; the Butler Institute of American Art; the National Drawing Society; Allentown Art Museum; Museo des Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela; American Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica; and the Philadelphia Art Alliance.

In a recent interview, Mrs. Renninger said, "I consider myself an indigenous painter, due in part to a year spent in Venezuela. I do not consider myself an art historian, but I love the shapes and forms of the architecture and artifacts which reflect a more crafts-oriented culture. I actually paint "designs of designs" which occur in my environment. My work is an abstraction of these, but since I enjoy drawing and communication of my interest in these objects, the abstraction is realistically based."

For her exhibit at the Stover Mill, Mrs. Renninger explained, "The paintings and related drawings will be of Victorian porch 'bandsaw work'; faded peeling painted signs; groups of Windsor chairs; and collections of flat irons, sleds, bottles, and a recent involvement with a group of old brass bird cages."

This promises to be one of the most interesting exhibits of the season.



"THE PLAY'S THE THING"

The Bucks County Playhouse NEEDS YOUR HELP in serving the community. Be a member of the Playhouse Family by making an annual contribution. With your membership in the Bucks County Playhouse you will have the right to vote for the Board of Directors, you will receive preferred handling on tickets and there will be special events throughout the year for members. For more information write: Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, Pa. 18938. ■



PANTRY STUFF

Remember those two little old ladies in *Arsenic and Old Lace*? They made Elderberry Wine. B & B Vineyards of Stockton, New Jersey is now making the same stuff without the arsenic — although you can supply your own old lace.

Winemaking is a fairly complex art — from the selection of the fruit to the bottling of the wine. On rare occasions one will find sediment in the bottle which is a topic B & B Vineyards comments about.

"There are three types of sediment which occur in wine — fruit particles, yeast, and cream of tartar. Fruit particles are the most obvious because as you crush the fruit small pieces will be carried by the juice into the wine. However, because these particles are fairly large they will settle out quickly and will never cause a problem in bottled wine. The second cause of sediment is yeast. As yeast is a living plant in the grape juice it consumes the natural sugar and produces alcohol. A yeast cell grows as it consumes the natural grape sugar and reproduces. When fermentation is complete the oldest and therefore the largest yeast cells fall to the bottom and the smaller baby ones which are not visible sometimes stay suspended. So, although the wine may look clear enough to bottle, there may still be some yeast in suspension which will later start refermenting and produce a bubbly wine and a small yeast sediment. Since wines are not normally preserved, especially at B & B Vineyards and by home winemakers, this form of sedimentation will occur occasionally. The third form of sedimentation is the hardest to describe. It is cream of tartar. Cream of tartar occurs naturally in fruit and is used in cooking. While it is dissolved in wine above 50°F, it becomes insoluble at low temperatures like 30°F. Normally a small winery relies on winter cold to remove all of the cream of tartar. However if the winter is mild, not all of the cream of tartar will be removed. Then, when a bottle of wine is chilled, it may or may not show a sediment. ■



THE EARLY BIRD

As the old adage goes, the early bird is the one who gets the pick of the lot at the Buckingham Friends School 40th semi-annual clothing sale. And in these days of inflation what could be more appealing than a sale of fashionable hand-me-downs at bargain prices. There will be clothing (of course!), toys, books, records and household items all carefully inspected to make sure the quality is up to BFS standards.

If you are not the early bird type, be a Johnny-come-lately and take advantage of the after-five price slash when everything goes for one-half the price.

The sale is held in the school gymnasium from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. on April 17, and it is located at the junction of Routes 202 and 263 in Lahaska. You just may find that bargain you have been looking for. ■



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BICENTENNIAL Doll Collection

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- Minute Man & Wife
- George & Martha Washington
- Paul Revere
- Betsy Ross
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RESTORATION primer

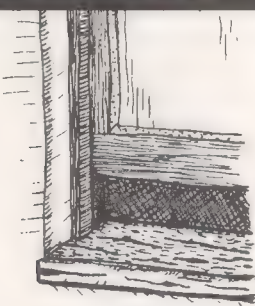
Old houses aren't for everyone. Plumbing may leak, space isn't laid out efficiently, wiring isn't adequate . . . and the list of sensible reasons why one shouldn't buy an old house goes on and on. Yet there are many who would never live anywhere else — they are truly Old House People.

Why do people endure the extra headaches of owning an old house — all for the privilege of living in a structure that takes on aspects of a cantankerous spouse?

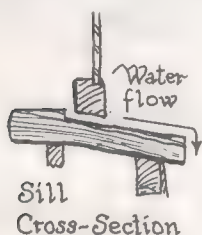
There is a romance to old houses. An old house is part of the collective memory of man — long ago joys and sadnesses linger in old halls and on dark staircases. An old house continually reminds us that people have lived before us in different times and circumstances. Keeping up an old house is keeping faith with the past.

Despite imperfections, an old house frequently exhibits an excellence of craftsmanship and detail that cannot be duplicated today. And while the creation of such extraordinarily constructed detail is beyond the ability of most contemporary workmen, it is within the ability of most homeowners to restore and preserve this detail.

Here in Bucks County we have an overwhelming amount of old houses from very early log dwellings to stone-filled frame to those famous sturdy native stone houses plus French Normandies and a bounty of Victoriana. And we know all you old house owners relish every little tidbit of advice on restoring your home that you can get. So for you old house dwellers, do-it-yourselfers and craftsmen, we have developed this special monthly column with the cooperation of *The Old House Journal*, a publication devoted to the restoration and preservation of houses built before 1914. *Panorama* will be glad to hear from readers who have ideas to share with us or seemingly unsolvable problems that we may be able to help you with in this new feature.



Restoring Rotted Window Sills



The art of placing window openings in a building wall is one of the most important and least understood elements controlling the exterior appearance of a house. Just as eyes give character to a human face, so windows give character to a house. And a window gets its character from the detailing that surrounds the glass. The old house restorers approach to windows should be:

- Don't change original sash. If previous owners have allowed the sash to totally rot away, replace with sash that is consistent with the original design of the house.
- Never remove ornamentation surrounding a window. If it is missing or beyond repair, duplicate it as closely as possible, or at least replace with a unit that duplicates the MASS of the original so the rhythm and line of the structure will remain unchanged.

When window sills are in bad shape, it is often possible to make restorative

repairs that will extend the life of the wood for many years.

There are at least three techniques that can be used to restore a rotted sill. And the basic principle is the same with all three techniques — you have to create a surface that will shed — not absorb water. Therefore all cracks and holes must be filled and a smooth continuous surface created that tips away from the house.

One technique is based on using products that are normally employed in boat repairs. An epoxy material — Git-Rot — can be used to saturate a partially rotted sill and arrest rot by encapsulating the fibers in resin. The surface can then be filled with another epoxy — Marine-Tex — which can be used to impart the proper water-shedding pitch. After the material dries it can be painted in the normal manner.

The second process relies on the carpenter's standbys — linseed oil and putty. The procedure can be used where the major problem is cracks and holes but where the surface itself is basically intact. Scrape away all loose material with a putty knife and wire brush. Thoroughly soak the sill with pentachlorophenol wood preservative to kill any rot-causing organisms. After waiting a day, saturate the sill with boiled linseed oil. Wait another day, then saturate again. After another day's wait, fill all cracks and holes with putty. Wait a couple of more days for a skin to form on the putty, then prime and paint.

The third process is used where the sill is badly deteriorated and the surface needs to be built up. You can use plastic wood or make your own filler with fine sawdust and waterproof glue. If more than ¼ inch must be built up, apply in two or more coats allowing each coat to dry completely. After the final coat — sand, prime and paint.

To protect the interior of the frame from water damage in the future, be sure the joint between the sill and vertical side members is carefully caulked. Painting the caulk after it has dried for a week will greatly extend its life.

Next month — Refinishing Old Floors

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the Country Gardener

by Steve Cooper

"I'LL TRADE YOU A XANTHORHIZA SIMPLICISSIMA
FOR A SEDUM MAXIMUM ATROPURPUREUM!"
Or "I'm buried in these damn things, what have you got?"

Everybody remembers days of their youth and the great collections the young amass. The baseball cards, the secret recipes for the ultimate mudball or the treasured collection of beach glass. It seems that we all have a passion for collecting. And yet one aspect of this hobby is sharing — an idea that's forgotten by country gardeners. Oh yes, we share the beauty that we've created, but we lose sight of the ability to let others create their own kind of magic with our materials, or materials that we have propagated.

It's the nature of plants to recreate themselves at a highly effective rate. For this we are all very thankful. Yet it can get to be a problem; in the case of perennials in particular. They need to be divided for their own good. If a clump is left to go on year after year the flower quality can diminish and the general vigor of the plant will deteriorate as well as the appearance.

With the annual or biennial division comes the problem of just what to do with the newly formed plants. Do you stick them somewhere in your landscape and hope that they do not make it through the winter (they will, you know, if you don't want them to) or do you simply throw them out in the compost pile? Or do you try to find a home for the orphans.

No horticulturist has ever visited a friend's home and not seen something that interests his or her curiosity. They often say to the host, "Where can I get one of those?" or "I

wish I had that in my garden." What I'm proposing in this article is a remedy for this problem. All the host need say is "Wish no more — I'll give you one when I'm ready to propagate, if you'll give me a part of that growing in the left hand corner of your garden."

Another plus in the "trade-it" system is that the varieties which are becoming hard to get in the garden centers will have a chance to get around once again. I'm not proposing that we get so far into this thing that we do not need the garden centers, that's my job and I like to eat occasionally. But being in the business of acquiring plant material for resale, I've become aware of a definite lack in variety of some of the perennials and house plants, as well as in the nursery area. What better way preserves a variety's life than to give or trade it for something else.

Another point to be made in defense of the industry is that while we would like to carry a complete line of plants that covers almost every aspect and need of the country gardener, many people shy away from the plants that are not known to them. For this I don't blame the public — yet they are missing some of the experimentation thrills that I have written about before.

In the case of a trade there is nothing to lose. You have the plant from which the new plant was made and you might have obtained a new treasure. I might add that it would be wise to know the combination to the treasure chest before you trade for it. Sometimes when the chest is opened and planted the riches may turn to lead in one's well kept garden. Make sure the trade is a fair one.


A plant that grows beautifully in one garden may not grow well in yours. Some research into the plants bought or traded is always a good idea.

Perennials are the easiest and most common to work with as far as division goes. However, a great deal of satisfaction can be obtained from propagating the hardwoods by cutting the house plants that have gotten out of control in the kitchen.

On the point of information and research, there is a publication published by the Arnold Arboretum called *Arnoldia*. September/October's issue deals with perennials of merit. I recommend all of the *Arnoldia*'s issues but this one in particular is excellent. It can be obtained by writing: *Arnoldia*, The Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130. Subscription to the booklet is \$5.00 per year. Well worth the money for the informed gardener.

I have just returned from a winter in Hawaii, full of ideas for gardens and techniques that can be adapted for the Bucks County gardener. Many ideas can be obtained from the gardens of different areas of the country, and the world. While on your own vacation try to see those areas and you will be rewarded with new thoughts to apply at home.

Paradise doesn't have to be a tropic isle but can be in your own backyard, here in Bucks County, with some imagination, love and work. In fact where else is paradise but at home — especially if home is in our county. ■

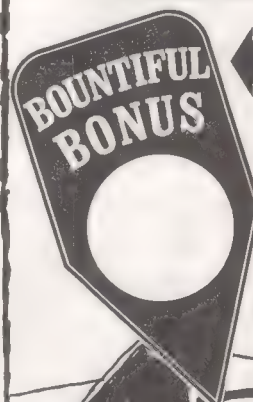


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The Cracker-barrel Collector

by Mop Bertele

Years ago most antique shops carried a wide range of items, the idea being that there was a little bit of everything for everybody. And indeed there was, but the broad spectrum label "antiques" and the consistently growing number of serious collectors has brought a change to today's market. The dealer who carries a general line is becoming more scarce as most find success within the realm of specialization.

One such dealer is Elizabeth McCain. This extraordinary woman so full of enthusiasm and vitality belies her senior citizen status. Her shop, Heritage Antiques, is located on 167 South Main St. in Doylestown.

The shop consists of three rooms, two of which are devoted mainly to furniture, mirrors and other collectibles. The third is a storehouse of brightly polished silver and antique jewelry which brought an instant gleam to my eye.

There was an abundance of sterling flatware and coin silver, some with the classic lines of Early America, others with the more ornate design of art nouveau again in popular demand.

Most of the silver displayed was American made but an occasional European piece was in evidence. I was delighted with an unusual silver lipstick case made in Italy about 1930. The shape was rectangular and the silver was ornately engraved. As an added feature, a hinged door sprung open as the cap was removed to provide a mirror for the owner. The original mirror has long since disappeared but a replacement would not be difficult. Priced at \$12.00, this case would make a terrific gift for any lipstick lover.

As I was unaware of the differences in silver classifications, Miss McCain gave this basic explanation: Coin and sterling silver differ only in the percentage of pure silver to alloy. Coin silver is 900 parts silver to 100 parts alloy. Sterling, a higher grade, is 925 parts pure silver to 75 parts alloy. At the turn of the century the United States passed a law that all silver produced in this country had to be sterling. European standards vary somewhat. For example, the lipstick case described above is 800 parts silver to 200 parts alloy.

One of Miss McCain's most successful endeavors is her sterling flatware matching service. This service is an invaluable help to the customer who comes in the shop looking for a specific piece or pieces of second hand silver to complete a set of flatware. If the item is not in stock at that time, Miss McCain has a list of reputable wholesalers whom she will contact at the customer's request. She

handles patterns, both current and obsolete; the latter are naturally more difficult to locate.

Worth mentioning is the tremendous savings in buying second-hand silver. Prices average about half the cost of new silver. Also, second-hand silver has the patina of age so preferred by many buyers, since brand new silver won't match the lower luster of already used service.

If you are in the market for a complete set of used sterling flatware, Heritage Antiques is the place to go. In the shop now is a set of Gorham's Tuileries service for twelve. The price of this exquisite sterling is a very reasonable \$425 — quite a savings when compared with the price of new silver!

Among the other pieces of silver that caught my eye was a set of pearl handled fruit knives from the late 1800's, priced at \$39.00 the half dozen and two matching coin silver salt spoons, very plain and simply elegant at \$25 the pair.

I have a passion for antique jewelry and Elizabeth McCain has so many beautiful pieces that I could barely contain myself. Most are yellow gold, a very few gold filled and stones run from diamonds to garnets, lapis lazuli to opals. I loved them all but for the sake of space must restrain myself to describing only a few.

An antique diamond engagement ring in a Tiffany setting got my vote for best buy in the simplicity division. The petite diamond in a slender yellow gold setting gave a feeling of delicacy. Priced at \$48.00 to guarantee making both bride and groom happy.

Another interesting item was a yellow gold hair ring. Hair jewelry as Miss McCain pointed out was very popular in the 1870's. The hair of a loved one, usually deceased, was braided into minute patterns and made into earrings, bracelets and watch chains, or put into rings and lockets. This unusual ring consisted of a gold band with an overlay of braided hair. Encircling the entire ring was another gold band engraved and hinged so the wearer could expose the hair. In excellent condition it is priced at \$48.00.

Garnet lovers will appreciate the antique necklace on display. The stones are set in gold in a graduated series of flower-like designs and attached to a gold chain. Price \$68.00.

There are several gold bangle bracelets either domed or flat, engraved and plain. I especially liked the very classic yellow gold bangle slip on about one-eighth inch wide priced at \$59.00.

Miss McCain has one display case devoted to antique watches of all types and sizes. There are many pocket watches ranging in price from \$39.00 to \$115.00. A wrist watch manufactured by Caldwell and approximately sixty years old would be a terrific addition to any woman's wardrobe. The case is plain, round, yellow gold, the band is a gold expansion type. The price is \$125.00.

While you are in the shop be sure to leave some time for a tour around the entire establishment as there are many pieces of fine furniture, mirrors and china for sale.

Heritage Antiques is open every day except Sunday 11-5.

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**PANORAMA'S
Bookcase**

BACK ROADS OF NEW ENGLAND, by Earl Thollander, Clarkson N. Potter/Publisher, New York, N.Y., 224pp.

At last, the gifted sketch-pen of Earl Thollander comes East. Word of his much appreciated "Back Roads of California" has preceded him, and it was with much delight that we received his most recent book, just in time for our annual Christmas trip to New England.

His sketches were received with words and expressions of high appreciation by many friends and associates, including several local Bucks County artists. And I, personally, was going to put his road maps to the test.

The book covers quite a large geographical territory, and all that we were able to fit into our schedule, was the trip "The Road Past Shaker Village," "Road to Gilmanton Ironworks," and the "Road to Center Barnstead." The trips were delightful in themselves, but the best part, was that we were able to join Mr. Thollander in both his observations and expressions with both the book, and the scene at hand.

It is one thing to observe an artist's sketch, and interpret it in our own eyes, but this book presents the rare opportunity to compare the sketch with the actual scene. I must compliment Mr. Thollander on his ability to portray accurately both in expression and detail the various scenes, that I was actually able to compare. Most artists seem to have a license to improve on the natural beauty of a scene rather than recording for prosperity, but I really couldn't accuse the author/artist of that sin. However, I guess that we'll have to assume in one case, that lighting came out of the four corners of the compass simultaneously to remove the four spires on the steeple of the Center Barnstead

Continued on page 36

Traveling through Quakertown, going north on route #309, you may pass a MacDonalds and a cleaner and other various businesses that just seem to be a part of the landscape. Then, as you near the cross-roads with route #313, a large shopping center appears on the right. It may seem surprising that among many shops implanted in the macadam is one of the county's oldest established mills.

The Great Valley Mills has been a working mill since Revolutionary times. Established in 1710, the mill has produced stone ground flours and meals to people in Pennsylvania from various parts of the state. Housed originally in the Brandywine Creek area, and moving to Ivyland, Paoli, and finally to Quakertown in 1968 the Great Valley Mills has found a conscientious and proud owner.

The Guilahans, father, mother and son, bought the mill in 1958. The father is the owner of the mill, Craig Guilahan (son) is the manager and Mrs. Guilahan is responsible for the delicious recipes that the Great Valley Mills has available for testing.

"My mother originated all of the recipes. That all started when we bought the mill," explained Craig.

The Guilahans pride their success on their good rapport with the local people.

Craig, Manager of what he calls a small mail order business, is proud of their heritage.

"I think that we are famous for our business with the local customers."

The Guilahans certainly do have something to be proud of. Bucks County has had several mills written about in history books but it is more of a heritage to Bucks County that there is one mill that still maintains a profitable stone-ground business.

In passing along some delightfully tasty recipes to your homes, The Guilahans also pass along some "Helpful hints for new bread bakers."

HELPFUL HINTS:

1. Never bake on a damp or rainy day unless the heat is on or your kitchen is free from humidity. Dampness will cut down the fermentation or action of the yeast.



Stone Ground From The Great Valley Mills

by
Pamela H. Bond

2. Where recipes call for 1 pkg. of yeast, 2 pkgs. may be used to speed up the rising process.
3. Sugar in limited amounts quickens the action of the yeast; salt retards it.
4. Potato water helps keep bread moist. Wash and peel 1 or 2 potatoes, cover with boiling water, when thoroughly cooked, drain off and save the potato water, mash the potatoes fine and add to the potato water.

GREAT VALLEY MILLS ROLLS

- 3 tbl Black Strap Molasses
- 1 tbl Salt
- 2 Tbls shortening
- 1 Cup scalded milk
- 1 yeast cake
- 3-4 cups G.V.M. unbleached flour

Unbleached flour from organic wheat — this is very rich flour suitable for cakes, biscuits, pie crust and all fine pastry.

Place the molasses, salt and shortening in a large mixing bowl; add milk, mix well and cool to lukewarm. Crumble yeast into mixture; add enough unbleached flour to make a dough too stiff to cling to the bowl, but not too stiff to knead. Cover tightly. Let rise in warm place until doubled in size. Turn out on a floured board and shape into desired rolls. Place in a greased pan, cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk — about one hour. Bake in a hot oven (400-450) for 15-20 minutes or until done and well-browned. This makes for 15 wonderful tasting rolls.

GREAT VALLEY MILLS PANCAKE, WAFFLE & MUFFINS "READY MIXES"

- 1 cup Self-Rising Flour
- 1¼ Cups Milk
- 1 egg
- ¼ Cup vegetable oil or butter

Beat egg and add milk. Stir into flour and beat until smooth. Add shortening. Set aside for five minutes or more. Add more milk if necessary but batter should NOT be too thin. Bake on hot greased griddle. Try some chopped apple, unsalted pecans or blueberries sprinkled into mix while baking. Turn and brown in the usual manner. Serve with syrup, slightly heated.

NATURAL BROWN RICE: BAKED BROWN RICE PUDDING

- 2 cups cooked brown rice
- ½ cup shortening
- 3 eggs
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 cup fruit juice
- ½ cup raisins
- ½ cup orange marmalade
- ½ cup nut meats
- half a lemon rind

Cream shortening and mix with cooked rice. Combine with beaten eggs and other ingredients. Pour into greased baking dish and bake for 1 hour in a moderate oven (375F). Serve with hard sauce. Serves 6.



Country Peace & NOT ALWAYS SO QUIET

In our December issue, we invited you, our readers, to let us know your views on the preservation of country peace and quiet. This contest was given in memory of Alfred H. Sinks, former editor of The Bucks County Traveler, contributor to Panorama and a diligent worker for the cause of conservation.

The winner, Ned Harrington, is the newly appointed Executive Director of the Neshaminy Watershed Association and President of the Paunacussing Watershed Association. As part of his duties, he oversees a continuing program related to pollution control, land use, greenbelts, floodplain management and erosion prevention.

by Edwin Harrington

Indeed there is a handful of conservation groups in Bucks County. A mighty handful! Yes, there are some little old ladies — a few wearing sneakers. But watch out: they are not just knitting Afghans. Some little old men too! A lot of medium-aged individuals, and armies of concerned young people.

The record shows there are about thirty citizen organizations and twenty government agencies concerned with the quality of our environment. That's impressive. All of them are staffed by volunteers or by modestly-paid personnel who are working away at the general subject of preserving the finer features in our way of life and our surroundings — and considering it far from an impossible task. They are heartily opposed to any suggestion that the world is going to the dogs, especially Bucks County.

True, they spend many hours talking shop to each other. They find it easy to agree upon principles of maintaining open space, preventing a depletion of groundwater, controlling erosion and floods, limiting destruction of flora and fauna, restoring stream fisheries, even watching birds when time permits. Sometimes they are criticized for being busybodies. But in reality they are making varied practical attempts to improve our little part of the world — or at least keep it as good as it has been. They realize that populations and commercial enterprises are going to expand, and they know that resulting pressures will be placed upon our rural

and suburban landscapes. Peace and quiet has to be fitted into the entire pattern. The objective is to arrive at reasonable compromises, through persuasion and communication, along with a mess of unavoidable laws and regulations. Nor is anyone with foresight trying to keep Bucks County looking like a section of Longwood Gardens.

How do you, a resident of the county, become a practicing conservationist and get with that busy, growing crowd? It is not likely to be a miraculous conversion. You begin by asking questions. You look at streams during a heavy rain and wonder why they are so muddy — and what should be done to limit the sudden loss of topsoil. You run water down a drain and then wonder where the unwanted substances go — where they should be going. You observe a familiar field being developed for new residences and think about diminishing agricultural acreages, loss of trees and vistas. You sound off about the need for good taste in buildings — houses, gas stations, shopping centers. You experience the neon-staggers! You question why last year's evening grosbeaks have not returned. You stop behind more and more schoolbuses. You hit potholes. Your taxes increase.

Probably you have already received any number of letters from civic-minded organizations. Happily you may even have read some of these and have considered joining. Such enrollments are the lifeblood of citizen groups, which depend on member contributions for meager funding. Well, certainly you cannot join them all.

Where to begin? As an opener, you should belong to the watershed association that represents your area. It is non-governmental and non-partisan, and is concerned with land usage, stream quality, erosion and flood control, fish and wildlife. The overall label is *Protection of Natural Resources* — extending from your own back yard throughout the entire countryside.

In Bucks County there is the Neshaminy Watershed Association, covering over two hundred square miles of our burgeoning neighborhoods; the Perkiomen Watershed Association in Upper Bucks; Cooks Creek, Paunacussing, Honey Hollow, Pennypack, Tri-Hampton

Watersheds. It is likely that you either live or work within one of these valleys. If not, you are wide open toward being encouraged to help start such an organization for your own valley in Bucks County. Each local association is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Council of Watershed Associations, which provides guidance and a sharing of experience. Each one works regularly with government agencies and officials at all levels — municipal, county, state and federal. Its representatives speak out constructively on environmental problems and give or receive many varieties of assistance.

Ready for more? Look into the Bucks County Conservancy. It campaigns for holding onto fine tracts of woodland, floodplain, farms and historical sites. It, too, sponsors watershed associations. The staff is always looking for members who will help with research, provide legal services and work out arrangements with donors of properties and local governments.

Then there is Open Space, Inc. It seeks a sensible ratio between development and countryside, and cooperates with public officials toward better regional planning, wise land-use legislation — and especially tax equalization that will enable farmers to go on producing. You can be an individual member or you can be represented by another organization to which you belong.

The Delaware Valley Protective Association was formed a number of years ago with the purpose of saving the canal. It did, and now this beautiful strip of land and water from Easton to Bristol is a state park and a national landmark. The D V P A continues as a watchdog along both sides of the river, working for limited road improvement, preservation of foliage and woodlands, maintenance of recreational areas.

The Bucks County Audubon Society, part of a national organization, wants YOU. Its primary objective is sensible protection for birds and other wildlife — and their habitats. It conducts educational programs and field trips and spends a lot of time in our schools. It is a leader in projects to recycle cans, bottles and other wastes. You can join their fearless cause, starting at \$5.00.

Precisely at noon on the third Thursday of each month, the Conservation Alliance convenes for lunch at Conti's. Members from all sorts of groups show up and compare all sorts of ideas on what they have been doing and what they are trying to do. It's a real forum! A main speaker presents a subject of general interest, then answers questions while his meal gets cold. Anyone with a useful thought is given five minutes to put it across. You never know whom you're going to meet — and that makes it interesting.

Hold on — there are still others: The Bucks County Federation of Sportsmen, Sierra Club, S P C A, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 4-H, Farmers' Association, Land Use Task Force, League of Women Voters, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Trout Unlimited, garden clubs and nature clubs.

Having joined the organization of your choice — or perhaps more than one — you should let its personnel know about your interests: skills, willingness, time quotas. Look halfway alert and they will quickly choose YOU. Perhaps you can help with office work, make speeches, write promotional materials, get out into the field and evaluate problems, take pictures. You can attend municipal or county meetings and either listen quietly or sound off when you know what you're talking about. You might take on school programs, speak to nature organizations, conduct adventurous trips, get dunked from a canoe, ride a bike into the sunset.

The time may come when you are approached to run for office on a board of supervisors or borough council; perhaps be asked to serve on a planning commission, as a zoning officer or building inspector. Then you will become one of our overworked legislators, preferably with a will of steel and the hide of a rhinoceros. Yes, you CAN be in government and continue being a conservationist. In fact, that's the only intelligent approach. You have the opportunity to mix good perspective with proven procedures, and capably see both the forest and the trees.

Having become one of the handful, you might even find time to observe a little of that country peace and quiet you are working to save. ■



The OTHER Mercer

by L. R. Lawfer

How much do we really know about the Mercer family?

A family that seemed larger than life, they were the kind of family that just bred rumor by their very existence. Their money seemed to come from nowhere. Their easy grace and old-time manners exuded an air of condescending superiority. They were loved by some, hated by others, scorned, patronized — and like most of us — probably not understood for what they really were. Their achievements live on to play havoc with idle rumor and speculation.

How much do we truly know about the Mercer family?

There are two houses — one named Aldie, another — Fonthill, in Doylestown. There are two artist's studios — one produced tile and the other created ceramics and glass work. The original Aldie and the old artist studio — Indian Works — have since been torn down. A matter for a family feud.

The home of William and Henry Mercer's grandparents, Chapman Farm, has made way for a shopping center and apartment building. All that lives in memory is the Fanny Chapman Memorial Swimming Pool, donated by William in commemoration of his Aunt's lifelong civic interest.

There is a museum; a massive structure of concrete. One of the workmen stated, "There's a lot of whiskey bottles that went into the construction of that ol' building." Other structures of concrete were also built within the town. And also left behind are books, papers, will, codicils, stocks, bonds, letters and a few remaining people who might remember from first-hand experience.

Each of these pieces tells a unique story all its own. But the tale cannot stop there.

Financial documents tell of vast individual fortunes. The few people who are yet alive and who worked for the family tell of their frugality, while the fact remains that Henry Mercer (known about town as 'Mr. Harry') sent his housekeeper and his tile works' manager on a sixteen-month European cruise.

The type of rumor that was prompted by this action circulates tales of sordid personal liaisons. Although these rumors have been assumed factual, the involved were cautious enough to bury all the facts with them.

What do we really know about the Mercers? Just more rumor substantiated by meagre facts. We relish the telling and retelling of stories, so we will go on, as Henry Mercer said in 1919, "to record local history because it is larger than the history of our town."

MARTHA DANA MERCER

Martha Dana Mercer, wife of William R. Mercer, Jr., was the most recent of the family to leave us. She died on February 21, 1960. We find her with an inventory and appraisal as filed \$5,496,032.88 according to her last appraisal before her death. She seemed to be better off financially than either her husband or his better-known brother, Dr. Henry C. Mercer. It is thought that the money came from either linen manufacturing, textiles, oil, banking or investments. The truth is that all of these are partially correct. The Dana Family of Boston, Massachusetts had been a wealthy family for quite some time. Mrs. Mercer's portfolio at the time of her death shows diversity with a conglomeration of Savings Bonds valued at \$137,000.00 before maturity and stock in the Boston and Main RR, Central Penn National Bank, Doylestown Trust Co., Madison Fund Inc., Burlington Industries, U.S. Trust Co., United Gas Improvement Co., Union Electric, Pan American Airways, Sheed and Ward Inc., and the Bucks County Playhouse.

Stories range from reminiscences of trips to Ed's Diner in Doylestown where she would occasionally go to get away from Aldie — a home that she said "was not fit to live in." As it was told, the chauffeur was to stand outside the diner with the car door open and wait for her. When she was finished eating she would get up and he was to come and open all the doors so that she could gracefully take leave of the place to return to Aldie. Aldie is located on the corner of North Main St. and Dublin Pike, or as one old Doylestonian places it — "at the end of the old Easton Trolley Line."

Other stories explain her manner with money. While in Rome with her personal maid, who always traveled with her, they were accosted by the customary insistent begging children. It was said that she never gave anyone a cent despite all her riches. It was her maid who would dig into her own pockets to hand a child some change. While at a dinner party given at Aldie she later exclaimed, "I really don't know how much money I have, there is always so much of it around." But when it came to paying her employees the payment was always substandard. Seemingly a Mercer trademark there is evidence of this in the brothers as well. Much grumbling went on, and there was a constant turnover of help.

Along with the frugality, there were fits of temper. Mrs. Mercer, who always dined outside when the weather permitted, was very particular about her food. If finding things not completely to her fastidious satisfaction she would angrily throw plate, bowl and all out on the lawn. If the weather were

cold and she was eating inside, the entire tray would end up across the room in the fireplace, left to be cleaned up by the staff.

During an interview, Mrs. Hug, one of the household cooks, related that Mrs. Mercer, "... had her times when she was very good-hearted and was outgoing then ... at other times she was just the opposite." Mrs. Hug felt that Mrs. Mercer was always good to both her and her husband, Hans, who worked for the Mercers as a groundskeeper.

The Hugs began working for the Mercers in 1955. Marie said the groundsmen stayed at Aldie all year round to keep the property in order, but the inside employees would only stay to clean up and close the house after Mrs. Mercer's departure for New York the day after election day. They would then be free until spring when they would return to Aldie to open the house before Mrs. Mercer's punctual arrival in early summer.

William Tell, long time neighbor of the Mercers at Aldie said, "You could set your watch to the day and time of Mrs. Mercer's arrival each year." When asked about what it was like living next to such a family he said, "Everybody knew Mrs. Mercer — she was a 100% English lady."

Both Mr. Tell and Mrs. Hug remember the parties that the Mercer family gave each year. Mr. Tell explains that each year the Mercers would invite the entire neighborhood, all the townspeople, to Aldie for a Christmas party. It was then that the Von Trappe Family, the world renowned singing group, entertained. At other times and especially during the wars, there were always parties for foreign dignitaries and ambassadors. A radio room where the wireless is still in operable order is nestled deep in the wells of the more than 35-room mansion of Aldie. One can only imagine the conversations and the importance they may have had on the U.S. war effort.

During both Wars, Mrs. Mercer volunteered for the Red Cross. But little is known about either her duties or her accomplishments during that time. Her few remaining contemporaries have refused to comment. This part of her life will undoubtedly be left to rumor. After William, or Mr. Willy as he wished to be called, died, Mrs. Mercer continued with some of the parties, but not as much as when he was alive. Willy lent an air of light-hearted joy to his surroundings.

Mrs. Hug remembers being summoned by Mrs. Mercer, "... she called me and showed me a great big picture of him (Willy) in the study, she said, 'Marie this is my husband, wasn't he a handsome man.'"

"It is a shame," Mrs. Hug continues, "now that I think about it, that I didn't ask more questions. She probably would have told me and there were plenty of opportunities. I just wasn't interested then."

And yet during other interviews it was stated that Mrs. Mercer was very cold. "For a rich woman, it was said, she didn't do much by her staff." Her will bears this fact out. With a total gross estate of over \$10 million, item 13 of her will leaves "all the people in my employ for more than one year \$100 for each year, but not more than \$500."

The list of charities that received money through the estate of Mrs. Mercer were the SPCA in Bucks County, the Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Diseases, the Society of

Catholic Medical Missions, Father Flannigan's Boys Home, St. Vincent's Home, the Melinda Cox Library for the purchase of Poetry, History, Biography and General Literature, but absolutely excluding fiction. The Doylestown Hospital received money as did the Philadelphia Art Museum and Harvard University, the Ambler School of Horticulture and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Doylestown. The National Council for the Preservation of Natural Beauty in Pennsylvania was given an amount and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia was given the entire estate with grounds and buildings at Aldie. There are 45 bequests in the will of Martha Dana Mercer and most of them are small. That is except for the amounts given to the Catholic Church through its various agencies and the \$100,000.00 given to Harvard. And Mrs. Mercer still remains an enigma to us all.

WILLIAM ROBERT MERCER, JR.

Although gregarious by nature, William R. Mercer, Jr., the husband of Martha Dana, left very little in the form of notes or letters. One neighbor when asked about Willy said, "He was a nobody, she was the one everybody knew." Although two years younger than his better known brother, Dr. Henry C. Mercer, William carries the name of his father. Laura Swain described the difference between the brothers by stating, "My man (Henry — for whom she was housekeeper) was an educated man. William was more, what shall I say... he liked to go out more... with his wife." When asked what kind of work William was involved with, Laura thought for a moment and then chuckled saying, "He played more... He was a playboy!"

William portrayed Santa Claus each year for the town. The parties he arranged while he was alive were magnificent. They were widely attended by important and influential people from throughout the world. Marie Hug thought, "... they may have been political, but I don't know."

It can easily be assumed that the parties had some political motivation. First, the numbers of "parties" given and, second, the array of foreign and domestic dignitaries who were in attendance vastly increased in number and importance during the time preceeding each war (WWI and II) and while the war was being waged. What went on at these "parties" is virtually unknown.

Born at Aldie on May 31, 1858, William listed his occupation as artist on the various legal documents that comprise his estate. There is no doubt regarding his imagination or his diligence. During the Depression, he undertook the building of the second Aldie. The original Aldie — the home that both Henry and William knew during their childhood — remained standing on the corner of North Main St. and Dublin Pike during the construction of the new Aldie. The present day Aldie sits back from the road on the same property. It is a more than 35 room brick mansion. Most recently it was occupied by the Southern Missions of Africa, under the direction of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The SMA took over the house in 1961 after the death of Martha. They left the mansion in the early fall of this year.

Blueprints for Aldie bear the architects' names of O.W. Ketcham, Terra Cotta Works, Crum Lynni, Pa. and Willing,

continued

MERCER continued

Sims and Talbutt — they are dated 7/8/28. Aldie was built on the 25.6 acres of the Mercer property under the watchful eye of Willy himself. An octagonal fountain that sits outside the building was designed and built by Willy. Stained glass work that decorates the inside of the house was also designed and created by Willy. He did all this in the studio that sits on the property about 150 yards from the house. Although almost the entire inside of the house is finished in hand-hewn quarter-sawn oak, one library has 6 stone beams across the ceiling. Each beam has a different design the 20' width of the room and again, all carry the initial of Mr. Willy. It may be difficult to pinpoint exact personality traits due to the lack of written information, but it would be impossible not to feel his presence at Aldie.

The entire mansion carries his distinct creative and artistic touches. As it is with brother Henry's Fonthill estate, Willy plotted each plant, bush, shrub and flower by name, genus and position on the blueprint for the house. The Mercer love of both nature and beauty was consummate. Just to the north of the mansion sits an enclosed stone cemetery. The tombstones carry the names of each of the Mercers' pets — dogs, cats and even a horse.

While Willy was alive there were no less than three gardeners and groundskeepers. They were constantly busy keeping the grounds in the shape Willy wanted them. He was a hard taskmaster and demanded the same excellence from his workers that he demanded of himself. On his approach, whispers of "Willy is coming, let's get to work" would precede him. And yet, there was no pretention about the man. Bill Reshetar who is the groundskeeper for the property now remembers his first meeting with Mr. Mercer more than 50 years ago.

Awed by the magnificence of the building and grounds, young Bill was in search of a summer job. He thought of the possibility of cutting grass at Aldie. When he approached the house and rang the doorbell, Mr. Mercer himself answered the door. Bill asked Mr. Mercer if he could possibly help with the grass cutting. . . Mercer stopped him mid-sentence. "Call me Willy", he said. Bill didn't get the job then, but the extravagance still awes him today after working at Aldie for over 8 years.

Bill is obviously impressed when he shows people the house. The 11 different fireplaces, the fountain, the glazed tile, all designed by Willy to decorate the house are beautiful. Bill says as he opens a 15' by 9' walk-in cedar-closet door, "For as old as this house is, they even installed automatic lights in the closets." Further showing the ingenious touch of Willy he points out the woodwork on the outside of the door. "On all of the surfaces where dirt or dust might collect, he designed it with a flat surface. All else is fancy. He must have had a very calculating mind," Bill finishes.

Outside the house there are two formal gardens. A French garden of the Renaissance period and, Mrs. Mercer's favorite, a formal English garden. The sitting room of the French garden has a roof that is ornately decorated with artwork and a magnificent hand-hewn door. Both gardens have succumbed

to overgrowth since the death of Willy. But their beauty during that time must have been something to behold.

It is well known that the brothers, Henry and William, were at odds in their later lives, but no one seems to know exactly why. Ben Barnes, in his book *46 Years of Memories*, intimates some possible answers. As is known, both were extremely creative. It can be assumed their temperaments were unbending and quick to flare. Henry, who refused to go on Daylight Savings Time, had been invited to a party at his brother's house. Henry was to read to the invited guests from his *November Night Tales*, a group of short stories that he was then working on and was later published. Ben tells, "He [Henry] never went on Daylight Savings Time saying he could tell Standard time by the sun. The brothers argued at the door and Willy accused Mr. Harry of being an hour late. Mr. Harry got back in the buggy and we went home."

And later another incident may have further severed the relationship. Ben relates the story, "Shortly after Mr. Willy had built his new home (the new Aldie) he came to see Mr. Harry to tell him he was going to tear down old Aldie, but would not if Mr. Harry would keep it in repair. Mr. Harry was deeply hurt and angry for when he went to Linden Hall (where Doylestown Manor now stands) to live while Fonthill was being built, he had given his entire share of his estate to his brother. Since Mr. Harry would not agree to keep up old Aldie in repair, down it came. The demolition of the old house nearly broke Mr. Harry's heart. He told me never to drive him by the site, even if we had to go out of our way to get home, for he never wanted to see the place again. And he never did."

It certainly seems feasible that the two brothers with their own way of doing things (both equally adamant that theirs was the only way) would have been stubborn enough to permit these two incidents to split them apart. When Henry died in 1930 the split was definite.

A will of Henry's dated Sept. 22, 1925 stated, "I give and bequeath the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, real, personal and mixed unto my brother William R. Mercer." On June 24, 1927 a codicil was attached stating that the "...rest, residue and remainder of my estate, real, personal and mixed is to go to the Bucks County Historical Society." An obvious omission of William.

On Feb. 18, 1930, Henry wrote, "It is my earnest desire that under no circumstances shall my brother or his wife take charge of my house and personal property at Fonthill or undertake to repair, manage or maintain the same or reside within. I beg that under no circumstances shall my friends in Doylestown or my trustees yield to any effort on the part of my brother or his wife to take possession of this property called Fonthill."

And then to settle the matter, William wrote after the death of his brother on April 10, 1930, "In view of the publicity occasioned by my caveat against certain codicils to the will of my brother, the late Dr. Henry C. Mercer, I wish to say that because of the unaccountable attitude of my brother toward me in the last years of his life, which, notwithstanding my own repeated efforts as well as efforts of mutual friends remained unchanged until his death. . . I have no desire to

impede the progress of any institution which is a fitting memorial to my brother and a valuable acquisition to our county." And so the efforts to change the will ended.

Possibly the real story will never be known, but by the letters we must assume the rift happened between 1925 and 1930. It was during these 5 years that both of the above mentioned incidents occurred. Although some like to believe that the split ensued over the fact that Willy was married and Henry wasn't — with the possibility of small-town talk and embarrassment for the family — there is no evidence for this. Since the possibility still exists, there will be some who will just assume so taking into consideration the oddness of Henry's character. But the two incidents seem much more likely an answer.

In spite of the fact that William received nothing from the estate of his brother, he did not die a poor man. On February 26, 1939 in Emergency Hospital, Washington, D.C. William died of primar carcinoma. He owned \$173,569.91 in stocks and bonds, most of which was in blue chip stock and utilities.

His will listed as his next of kin Baroness Walpurga Von Friesen — a niece, Bernard Von Friesen — a grand nephew, Miss Marion Lyman and Mrs. Sophy Pratt. He provided handsomely for the relatives, but like his wife he also included several charities. Out of his estate came the funds for the Fanny Chapman Memorial Swimming Pool. Money also went to the Doylestown Hospital, the Bucks County SPCA, and the Melinda Cox Free Library — for the purchase of books on art, literature and history only.

Since there is so little that can be known about Willy, it is even more difficult to not describe him using his art. The house, into which he put so much of his creativity, is now for sale. Again more rumor, it has been said that the Archdiocese is asking for anywhere between \$1.5 and \$10 million for the property at Aldie. The possible candidates range from restaurant owners, nursing-home supervisors, land developers, shopping center hopefuls, etc. Gerald McHugh, who is handling the estate, had said, "...most proposals that we are at present considering do not carry the purpose that the proposer has in mind for the land. We are considering any reasonable proposal." It is even thought that the land may be split into three sections — above the house, below the house and the house itself.

It would be more than a shame to see the beautiful mansion (the creative dream of a man) be destroyed and subsequently forgotten as time drifts onward. If William had had the foresight of Henry Mercer, he would have willed it to the Historical Society or to the County.

Unlike Henry, both William and Martha were not so all-consumed by history. They lived lives that were filled with trips to Europe and throughout the U.S. They spent a good deal of time in Boston, New York and Washington with friends going to parties, balls, the theatre, opera, etc. There is no doubt that they enjoyed life.

But the name of Henry C. Mercer will live on with his castles and his letters while the lives and home of William and Martha will soon be nothing but memory.

How much do we really know about the Mercer family? ■

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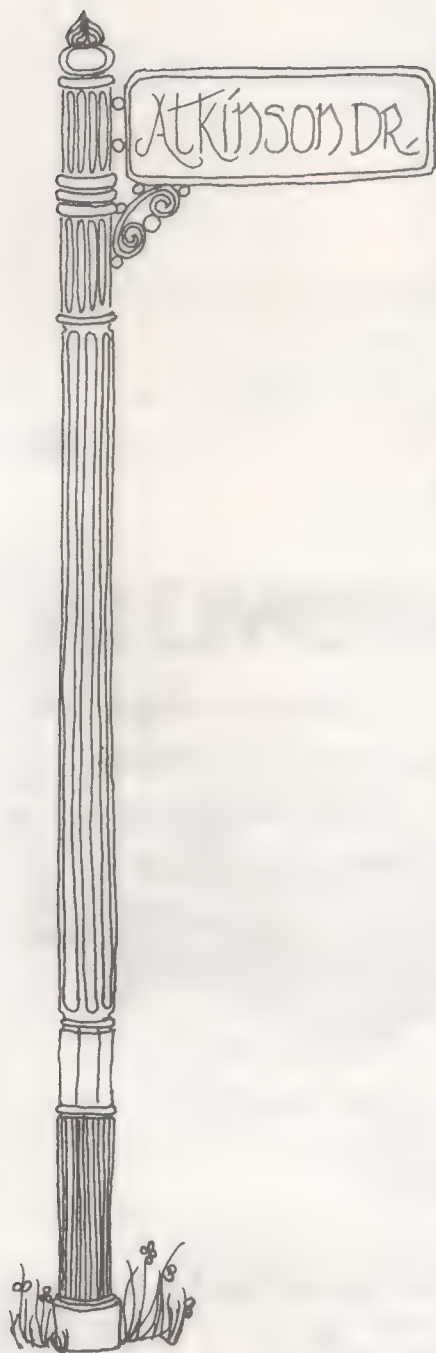
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A FRIEND TO ALL!

by

Grace Hensel Davis

Mrs. Davis has been a past contributor to Panorama and is the widow of the late Knickerbacker Davis.

If you are inclined to be a pessimist or happen to be in a gloomy mood and chance to meet a well-built, tall man in his eighties, you will soon forget all your troubles. The man, of course, is the Mayor of Doylestown, Daniel Atkinson – friend to all and loved by everyone!

Dan's manner is so gracious and outgoing that before you know it you are not only listening to him, but are sharing your own experiences. Dan Atkinson has a remarkable memory and can entertain and inform you with happenings that keep even school children spellbound.

Mayor Atkinson was born in Newtown, Pa., on November 6th, 1891 where his father was a drug store clerk who was later transferred to a larger store in Doylestown. The Mayor says he will never forget the excitement of April 1,

1897 when the family moved to Doylestown in a horse-drawn wagon. It was not long before his father also held the post of Constable until his death. He was a legendary figure in Bucks County who was respected for his toughness although he never carried a gun.

Dan remembers well when the roads around Doylestown were unpaved and the sidewalks had boards to walk on. He says children had to make their own good times and relied on their own ingenuity which would seem very dull to the present generation.

The four Atkinson boys formed the nucleus of local basketball, baseball and football teams. But even then their resourcefulness was called upon for they didn't have enough money to buy a basketball, so they went around to all the stores for contributions and collected the \$8.00 needed. "These were the days," says Dan, "when the team was transported in two horse-drawn wagons, 20 boys in each wagon and taken to Lambertville or Perkasio. It took us 2 hours each way to get there and back!"

The brothers never missed a game if they could help it and even today it is practically a "must" for Dan to attend all games of any consequence that Doylestown High Schools or Delaware Valley College give.

The Mayor laughs when he talks about the Shows that were given in the old days. "Once a year," he says, "there was a "Medicine Show" and there was always an hypnotist who advertised SNAKE OIL. It was a "come-on" for people to buy it and he paid the boys 25¢ to feign hypnosis. I wanted 50¢ when he came to me and he wouldn't give it!"

"Then there was an Actor's Troupe," Dan remembers, "that came thru Doylestown about once a year with "Uncle Tom's Cabin" as their show. A few of us were in the Parade and I led with one of the bloodhounds. We all had to wear the caps they gave us although they were so dirty my father thought they must have lice." And for the Doylestown Centennial of 1912, us four Atkinson boys and Howard Barns were dressed up as the Doan Outlaws in the Parade — it was great fun."

The Mayor grew up, as did his brothers, attending Doylestown schools with the guidance of loving but strict parents. His first job, after graduation in 1909, was with the Doylestown *Intelligencer* as a reporter. But when Mr. Grundy became the owner of the newspaper he wouldn't hire Democrats so Dan was forced to work for *The Doylestown Democrat*.

It was a sad time for Doylestown when World War I came as it was for the rest of the United States. And especially so when Albert one of the four brothers was killed. He was the first of the WW I veterans there.

In 1916 Dan Atkinson served in the U.S. Army during the Mexican Border Incident. And when World War I was raging in 1917 and 18, Dan became a Lieutenant in France with the 26th Division. He also served 35 years in the Pennsylvania National Guard. He has also been First Post Commander of the American Legion intermitantly between 1919 and 1941, the Post No. 210, was named after Albert R. Atkinson, Jr.

On Feb. 9, 1946, Dan married Mary Clemens Taylor. After his reporting days

he worked for the Philadelphia Electric Co. for 38 years, but his destiny was not for that sort of thing — he was cut out for more important activities and wanted to get into politics. At first he made no headway for he happened to be a Democrat which was considered taboo in those days as far as Bucks County was concerned. But in spite of that he was, in November 1965, elected to be Mayor of Doylestown, the first Democratic mayor in 60 years! Now, after 10 years he is still on the top of the list!

Dan Atkinson has always enjoyed taking part in countless community affairs not only enjoying them but always contributing something worthwhile. He makes almost daily visits to the hospital, and nursing homes besides house calls for the sick and shut-in people.

The honors and awards the Mayor has received are almost countless. There have been many dinners and luncheons given in his honor as a result of his guidance, council and comfort to his legion of friends and acquaintances. ■





The Dean of American Seedsmen

by Carla Coutt

Illustrations by Lynn Wright Johnson

The House of Burpee with 99 years of growing tradition



Bucks County
has played a major role
in the development of flowers
and home-grown vegetables
used all over the world

David Burpee opened the massive double doors leading into the entrance hall of the main house at Fordhook Farms. The 82-year-old dean of American seedsmen welcomed us into his gracious Federalist-period home; a part of Bucks County that has been in his family since 1888. He had recently returned home from California where there are two more trial grounds for the development of Burpee seeds — Floradale Farms and the Santa Paula Ranch.

The W. Atlee Burpee Company has been a subsidiary of General Foods for the past four years although it still appears to be run like a family business. And General Foods has been wise enough to leave it that way because it works! The Burpee family is larger than mere blood lines; it includes many employees — some who have been with David Burpee from early days.



Marigolds in February

Being a traditionalist at heart, I inquired about the sale of the company. Mr. Burpee replied that although he missed it — after 57 years as the head of the largest seed producing company in the world — he “wanted to leave it in the best possible hands.” His son, Jonathan, is in charge of the customer service division of Burpee and no doubt the five grandchildren will grow up in the Burpee tradition.

“My grandfather and great-grandfather were famous surgeons, you know,” David Burpee told us. In fact, the same vocation had been chosen for his father, Washington Atlee Burpee.

David Burpee’s grandfather, also named David, was a citizen of Canada where the name of Burpee evolved over the years from the French-Huguenot surname of Beaupre. When Dr. David Burpee requested permission to marry the daughter of his instructor, Dr. Washington Atlee, the promise was exacted that

the couple would move back to Philadelphia within six years of the marriage. It was in 1861 that the doctor brought his wife and three year old son, Washington Atlee Burpee, home to Pennsylvania from New Brunswick. The destiny of the boy was obvious — the last syllable of both names — Atlee and Burpee — refer to meadows and grass land in their native lands.

“In those days, a boy was told what he was going to be,” informed David Burpee, and Washington Atlee’s future was to follow his father’s footsteps in medicine. But after two years of medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, the 18-year-old boy rebelled against his father’s wishes and with \$1,000 borrowed from his mother, he opened his own store in Philadelphia selling pet stock and seed for feed.

“He realized right from the start,” Mr. Burpee said, “that he would have to do more

than local trade to make it go.” The first Burpee mail order catalog was printed in 1876 and “By the age of 35, he had the biggest mail order seed house in the world,” his son related.

That first catalog, mailed all over the country, offered “High Class Land and Water Fowl, Leghorns of my Celebrated Strains, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks and Fancy Pigeons of all Varieties” plus “Eggs for Hatching,” pigs, dogs, lop-eared Himalayan Rabbits and ferrets.”

Right from the start, quality was the watchword and testimonials from all over the country began to pour in. The best were used in following catalogs.

A satisfied customer from Missoula County, Montana, writes of his new pigs in the fall of 1876:

“... I have them home now and I am delighted with them. I have given them a nice clean yard to run in, and a clean warm bed, and

continued



The seed house as it stands today. The catalog of 1896 describes it:

"The big new seed house near the center of the farm, which is probably the most important as well as the most conspicuous building at Fordhook, is also one of the most interesting places to visit that can be imagined. Exteriorly it is of plain architecture, having been, like all Fordhook buildings, erected more for use than beauty."

"The utmost care was exercised in planning and building it, however all the timber used is large, heavy and strong, the building being perfectly weather-proof and the walls are nearly all windows, so that those two elements which seeds love so well – light and air – are to be had in abundance."

"Surmounting the roof is the bell-cupola from which can be had a beautiful, far-reaching view of the green hills and valleys of Bucks."

BURPEE continued

this morning I have given them a good scrubbing with soapsuds. They got bruised a little and the boar is a little lame – but will be allright in a few days. The express companies took excellent care of them – took them out of the box every night.... At Missoula, the merchants and lawyers and most everybody wanted them. One man wanted to pay me \$100 for the boar alone....another offered a good horse....another offered 100 bush. of good clean wheat. But I would not part with either of them."

The author of the above letter, Mr. Rosewell Parkhurst, was only one of the many who had discovered the House of Burpee. His pigs had survived the grueling stage ride from Philadelphia and he was more than happy to pay the shipping charge of \$90.00 – twice the price of the animals.

"It took Father 12 years to earn enough money to buy this place," David Burpee said of Fordhook Farms. W. Atlee knew that in order

to guarantee the quality of the seeds and stock he sold, he must raise them himself – although many seeds would still be imported from the fields of Europe. As always, his first concern was the reliability of Burpee seeds.

The mail order company never believed in bothering their customers with follow-up material. The catalog was their "silent salesman" – designed to be a handbook to the farmer in the field. W. Atlee was quoted as saying "Forced sales are like forced plants – you can raise them but natural growth is better." But even with an outlook like that, some advertising is necessary.

During the Christmas season in 1890, he announced a contest for the best advertisement to bring business to the House of Burpee. First prize of \$50 went to a specimen of fancy typography which was popular in that era. The second prize \$25 winner was a modest ad set around the phrase "Burpee Seeds Grow." That 84-year-old slogan is as true today as it was then.

The Burpee Annual of 1896 introduced Fordhook to the seed-buying public in every civilized country on the globe. At that time there were 6,722 samples of seeds under inspection in the trial beds at the farm and "nothing like extra cultivation or stimulation is ever given to any bed, the object being to have every variety grow under perfectly natural and healthy conditions with precisely the same care and environment that they would receive in the average farmer's garden or field."

David Burpee boasts that this was long before the U.S. Government had any trial stations. He does not remember exactly when the family moved from their home in Philadelphia to take up permanent residence at Fordhook. He recalls it was a period of time after they had been using the farm for a summer home. His father ordered a cottage built for the family at Fordhook because the main house was used to house incubators and some of the farmers. "But," he emphasized, "It wasn't a dormitory!"

Presumably, Bucks County farmers had discovered the House of Burpee by now. The catalog of 1896 described the area:

"Truly the garden spot of all Pennsylvania is its southeastern corner, and nestled down in the midst of one of the fairest landscapes is Fordhook Farms, with its acres of hill and valley, woodland and meadow, dry ground and moist, offering every diversity of soil and location. As there are so many different kinds of seeds and each has some special location, it is not hard to see that this variety in the character of Fordhook has its useful side. . . ."

The original Fordhook Farms was comprised of over 300 acres divided into four parts. Then, all parts could be reached from the center of the farm; today, it is different. There is less acreage due partly to the highway department and partly to the generosity of David Burpee and his family. They have donated a large piece of land and one of the farmhouses, valued at \$100,000.00, to the YMCA of Doylestown. Another part of Burpee land is to be used for a new firehouse, and another was given to the Bucks County Conservancy – a section adjoining Harts Woods which is already owned by that organization. Yet another piece of land in Doylestown bears the name of "The Burpee Playground." And General Foods also owns a portion of Fordhook.

Life became almost entirely centered around Fordhook for David and his brother when the outbreak of an epidemic caused his parents to take the children out of school in Philadelphia. A tutor was hired until David began attending Doylestown High School. From there he moved on to Culver Military Academy in Indiana and then started his freshman year at Cornell University in 1913.

"I had an overwhelming interest in plant genetics for as long as I can remember," stated David. He had accompanied his father from the time he was eight years old on the older Burpee's annual summer seed inspection trips to Europe until the outbreak of World War I.

During his first months at Cornell, David took two courses in plant genetics that were usually reserved for senior students. He told the college administration, "I came only to learn," because they refused to give him credits for taking these courses in his first year. And it was well he did!

Returning home on vacation in December of that year, he found his father seriously ill and unable to continue as head of the House of Burpee. January of 1914 found 22-year-old David Burpee stepping into his father's shoes after only three months at Cornell. World War I was about to begin.

Mr. Burpee confessed that it had bothered him for years that he was not "educated." As the years went by, the famous seedsman was offered several honorary degrees from various universities. He turned down most of these offers because he felt "unqualified" to give the required commencement address that went along with the degree. He did accept an honorary degree offered by Bucknell University; The college didn't insist on the customary speech. And four years ago, he received a degree from Delaware Valley College where he gave an inspiring commencement address.

On that day, in his speech entitled "Lessons Learned on the Farm," David Burpee spoke of a time when he was a boy and a visitor at Fordhook showed his father how the sun's rays concentrated through a magnifying glass could burn a hole in a piece of paper. After trying it himself, he drew the analogy that he should concentrate on whatever he wanted to do — so much that he would "burn a hole in it!"

When he was 17 he saw his first airplane which landed in one of the fields at Fordhook. His first thought was that it should go with the wind in order to rise, but further contemplation brought about the realization that the airplane needed the ability to go against the wind. His second lesson was that one must overcome resistance to rise in the world.

The third lesson was learned from a wheel. From that he observed that human endeavor is like the spokes of a wheel, it reaches out in all directions so there is always room at the top for more.

This was the type of man who inherited the largest mail order seed house in the world. His father, W. Atlee Burpee, died in 1915 at the age of 57. The history of Burpee Seeds as well as the effect of war on the American people is well chronicled in the old seed catalogs.

The Burpee annual which arrived in almost every farmer's mailbox, in January of 1916, told how Europe's war affected seeds.

"To secure the best seeds that can be grown, we have for years planted in Europe those varieties which mature there in the highest state of perfection. Thus large quantities of flower seeds have come from France, Germany, England, Holland and Italy, as also beets, carrots, radishes, Italian onions etc., while several varieties of cabbage and cauliflower have been grown in Denmark."

"Arrangements for 1914 crops had been made as usual, and until August we had no

cause to question their fulfillment. Then came the outburst."

"Nearly all available men were called from the fields to fight and just at the height of harvest time."

"With stunning suddenness, trade and transportation were paralyzed by the unprecedented crisis. All of which caused us to omit for 1915 a few varieties of vegetable and quite a number of flowers. . . This is a state of affairs beyond our control. We regret deeply that in this day and age so terrible a war could have come to pass. . . The situation is so unlike any with which men have had to deal in modern times that as yet none can forecast the ultimate effects."

"The House of Burpee, however is exceptionally well prepared to meet just such an emergency. On our farms, the writer and two sons, having returned in August and September

last from the usual European crop inspection trip, are familiar with the situation. Even under the present abnormal conditions we promise the standard Burpee quality in seeds that grow and the same high class service as rendered heretofore by the House of Burpee. We have not advanced prices because of the war."

The catalog dated January of 1918 has a paragraph that could have been used in 1975, with a little rewording.

"Because of the war, some seed will be short; it would be well to order early. High prices are likely again this year. There may even be a world shortage in the food supply. It is important that America increase still her production of food. So for economic as well as patriotic reasons we advise that you plant every inch — and plant it with quality seeds."

In those days, the W. Atlee Burpee Company employed over 300 people each day to

continued



Packing Seeds



Corn, in tassel, growing in Fordhook greenhouses.

BURPEE continued

handle the seed orders which were filled within 24 hours of their receipt.

A further catalog for the same year was published as a special war offering. Sent out in June, it offered aid for the war garden. Burpee advised that the best way to produce more food was to make your garden work continuously throughout all the seasons. But while everyone was concentrating on producing more food, they should not ignore the finer things in life — “during times of stress we should surround our homes with the influence and delicate beauty of flowers,” wrote Burpee.

And that was the very theme of Burpee’s 1975 award winning entry at the Philadelphia Flower Show. The 5,600 square foot grocery garden won top honors in the educational class for being successful in teaching year ’round vegetable growing. And bordering the vegetable garden was David Burpee’s favorite flower which earned him the title of “Mr. Marigold.”

As the catalog of 1918 reported short supply of seeds, the daily newspapers of ’75 are doing the same. Fearful that our own order was sent in too late, we put the question to Jeanette Lowe, horticulturalist at Fordhook. “Nonsense,” she replied. And the answer is right there in this year’s catalog where David Burpee’s annual letter states that the crops were increased last year to meet this year’s needs.

Depending on the seed that is needed to be produced, Burpee’s farm between 1350 to 1500 acres in the state of California. There are two farms — one near Santa Barbara, begun in 1909 because of the cool summers that are ideal for producing seeds for peas and other like vegetables and one further inland, near Ventura, started in 1944 because of the intense heat and dry weather conditions that offer long growing seasons. There is no seed production at Fordhook, only experimental trials.

The seed varieties offered each year in the catalog are based on observations made at the research farms. Old varieties are dropped in favor of superior ones. A new variety is added only after successful performance at Fordhook trials. After all, Fordhook is still representative of the climate and soil of most American gardens — new varieties or hybrids must stand up to such things as wind, rain, heat and insects.

David Burpee was quoted in 1959 as saying, “Although Burpee was the first American seed company to create and offer seed of hybrid vegetables and flowers, I am shocked when I reflect on how long it has taken the human race to get around to accomplishing this. The first hybrid known to man was the mule, a cross between the jackass and mare. That was many thousands of years ago and I believe it was the jackass’ own idea. It wasn’t until the present generation that people learned the value of hybrids in the vegetable kingdom.”

To create a hybrid, two plants with desirable but different features, are crossed and grown. They self-pollinate and the second generation seed is raised — this is where the

Jeanette Lowe, horticulturalist at Fordhook, inspects Burpee’s bite-sized Basket Pak tomatoes.



BUCKS COUNTY'S BEST

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Every month our features include COUNTRY DINING, the guide to the epicurean appetites of Bucks County, a CALENDAR OF EVENTS which is an inclusive listing of day to day events of things to do in & around Bucks County, the CRACKER BARREL COLLECTOR — where we visit a different antique shop each & every month to let you know what is available and for how much, the COUNTRY GARDENER advises how to cope with the growing problems peculiar to our part of the state, RAMBLING WITH RUSS where Russell Thomas tunes into days gone by, HORSE TALK gives sensible advice for equine lovers everywhere and a RESTORATION PRIMER, a how-to guide to understanding your old house plus a cupboard full of miscellany each month in PANORAMA'S PANTRY & regular reviews of books we feel you should know about.

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*Burpee's "Season Spanner" grocery garden
at the Philadelphia Flower Show.*



Gladys Mims in Fordhook's greenhouse.

features united in the first cross break up into new combinations and the best plants are then selected and self-pollinated. Gradually the new type becomes purified and increases. Only 5% of the millions of hybrids grown become entries in the seed catalog.

The white marigold contest has been in full swing at Burpee since 1955. The contest is now closed and the \$10,000 prize will hopefully be awarded during the judging this summer. Other awards of merit have been made to those who have come close or "near to white." Jeanette Lowe relates that every entry is given a trial and the cost per trial is about \$10. Imagine the thousands of dollars spent by Burpee over the years. It must have been very frustrating when some of the submitted entries bloomed in brilliant color. Amateur and professional horticulturists alike have closely guarded their potential prize-winning marigolds — some have even phoned Fordhook with reports of stolen flowers and other tales of woe.

Fordhook Farms today still looks much like it did years ago. The Bucks County stone manor house stands out from the other frame buildings on the property. And part of the catalog division is still at the farm although the main office is in the new Warminster plant. We spent hours pouring over leather bound Burpee

catalogs in the library, housed in an old barn at Fordhook with an atmosphere dominated by long, dark tables and a lovely fireplace.

It was interesting to observe the progress of the catalogs from simple black and white booklets, illustrated exclusively by engravings, to the annuals of the early 1900's with beautiful color paintings of flowers and vegetables interspersed with both engravings and photography.

From the dark-wood atmosphere of the library we stepped into the sunlit world of Fordhook's greenhouses — the domain of Mrs. Gladys Mims who along with her husband, Austin, manages the Fordhook greenhouses.

Everything was ready to go to the flower show. It was an impressive sight to see a greenhouse full of colorful vegetables ready to be picked, at this time of year.

When Mrs. Mims was asked about the flavor of indoor-grown vegetables against those grown outdoors, she replied by offering us a freshly picked Burpeana Early pea pod to sample. She made her point — it was delicious.

Gladys Mims also told of years ago when she first came to Burpee's. "It was some time in the forties," she reminisced, "Burpee's had a little store just outside of Doylestown where you could go and buy anything you wanted. I think it was a good idea," she continued, "but it wasn't too profitable."

Although some Burpee seeds are sold in garden centers, the full variety is only available from the catalog. After all that is the nature of the business — from the fields directly to the grower!

* * *

One final bit of research into the House of Burpee brought me to a field in Buckingham Township neatly planted with rows of winter wheat.

"What kind of seeds do you use?" I inquired of farmer, Frank Wicen.

"Good seeds!" he replied with a twinkle in his eye.

"What kind," I insisted.

"Seeds that grow!" he persisted.

"But, WHAT KIND, Frank?"

His answer was, "Burpee's, what else?"

And that's all I wanted to know! ■



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BOOKS continued from page 16



THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK OF VEGETABLE GARDENING by Joan Lee Faust, Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co., N.Y., N.Y., 282pp., \$9.95

Do you know what is so great about this book? The pictures! And the layout (the way the pages are designed)! Of the hundreds of thousands of grey gardening books available, very few have the combination of being eye-appealing *and* full of vital information. Each vegetable is illustrated, in full color, showing the various stages of growth from seedling to the mature plant. (In fact this reviewer has a suggestion for the New York Times Book Company — why not use the book's illustrations, by Allinora Rosse, for a series of prints — they would be an inspiration in any kitchen.)

But this is not just a pretty book. It's useful and it's thorough.

The author organizes the whole sphere of vegetable gardening for you from a list of the major seedsmen (where to get your catalogs), understanding the soil and the nutrients it requires, how to start seeds indoors, thinning, transplanting and general care.

What makes this book stand out from others, aside from its looks, is the way the information is packed into it. The author makes the idea of growing your own a reality by simplifying and organizing the information in a way that will help anyone succeed with their own grocery garden.

Forty-four vegetables and twelve herbs are illustrated and accompanied by explanations of their characteristics, soil needs, special treatment and harvest time. And from this section, we found out which particular hybrid or type of seeds to order for our own vegetable garden.

One chapter we particularly liked was entitled "What to do about bugs." Two chemical pesticides are listed for use when "all else fails." Insects are illustrated and categorized as to whether they are friend or foe, together with natural treatments for disposing of them. Also, there is an invaluable list of plant protectors such as garlic for repelling Japanese beetles and mace or Thyme which repels the cabbage worm.

After a successful harvest and you have eaten your fill, you can turn back to the book and find out how to save the leftovers by storing, freezing or canning.

And city gardeners should take heart too — there's even a section for you on penthouse, patio and roof gardens.

The author, Joan Lee Faust, is the Garden Editor of *The New York Times*. She and artist, Allinora Rosse, also collaborated on *The New York Times Book of House Plants* previously reviewed in this column. If you want to give your not-so-green thumb a treat — buy both books — and be a successful gardener year 'round both indoors and out.

C.C. ■

Continued page 46

FAVORITE Brussels Sprouts

by C. Coutts

Photograph by Britte Windfeld-Hansen

Until recently, I am ashamed to admit, I never liked Brussels Sprouts — a prejudice left over from early childhood, no doubt, because I don't remember ever trying one in the past 25 years. Our assistant editor, Mop Bertele, was on the spot to help remedy the situation and we concocted a recipe tested faithfully in our own kitchens (about once a week) that even our children will eat.

Combine the contents of 3 ten-ounce boxes (or 2 pounds of fresh) of frozen Brussels sprouts with $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of butter and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of white wine. Cook the sprouts over low heat in a covered saucepan until tender but crisp. Stir in 3 tablespoons of Dijon mustard and one cup of sour cream. Cook the sprouts until the sauce is thick, shaking the pan to make sure each sprout is coated. Serve topped with toasted almonds. (Recipe can be reduced by thirds.)

Plant your own Brussels sprouts from seed in flats indoors NOW and they will be ready to set out in early June.

It takes about 4 months for the planted seed to reach full maturity and one plant will produce about 75 to 100 sprouts. Brussels sprouts may be harvested for the dinner table until mid-winter. ■

Burpee's Jade Cross Hybrid Brussels Sprouts
photographed in the greenhouses at Fordhook Farms.

Country Dining

PANORAMA'S GUIDE TO THE EPICUREAN APPETITES OF BUCKS COUNTY

TOM MOORE'S, Route 202, 1 mile south of New Hope, Penna. 215-862-5901. This international award winning restaurant is one of Bucks County's most picturesque settings. It is quite popular with local residents and serves some of the finest continental food available anywhere. Intimacy, quality and friendliness are by-words at this handsome and old (230 years) inn. Fireplaces, lots of unusual stained glass, good wines and specialties such as Cantonese steak, Shrimp and Lobster ala Moore, the chef's own desserts and a lot of tradition combine for a great dining experience. Open seven days, Reservations please.

New Jersey

Lambertville House, Bridge St., Lambertville, N.J. (609) 397-0202. 162 year-old inn with delightful atmosphere. Dine here in candlelight setting. Hot, homemade bread served daily. Our own famous Lambertville House salad dressing. Open 11:30 A.M. seven days a week. Dinners from \$3.75 to \$11.50 with dinner specials Tuesday and Thursday at \$4.25. Banquet facilities.

The Swan Hotel, 43 South Main St., Lambertville, N.J. (609) 397-3552. Unquestionably one of the Delaware Valley's most beautiful turn-of-the-century bars. Its back street elegance and superb art collection create an ambience found only in the pubs of London and Dublin. Open daily except Sunday, 4 P.M. 'til 2 A.M. featuring excellent drinks and pub sandwiches. Jack Gill on the piano - Saturdays.

River's Edge, Lambertville, N.J. at the New Hope Bridge, (609) 397-0897. Dining on the Delaware in a choice of incomparable settings - The River Room, The Garden or The Club. The view vies with the superb menu featuring: prime rib, stuffed lobster, sweetbreads and special dessert menu. Luncheon to 3 P.M., (\$2-\$5), Dinner to 11 P.M. (\$6-\$12). Dancing nightly. Tuesday eve - join the single set. Reservations. Jackets on weekends. Closed Monday.

Pennsylvania

Benetz Inn, 1030 N.W. End Blvd., Quakertown (Rt. 309 two miles north of town) 536-6315. A family-run restaurant that captures a feeling of Old World warmth with its atmosphere, service and food. If you like German cooking, order sauerbraten and spaetzles, but also recommended is the roast duckling a l'orange. Buffet luncheon Thurs., buffet dinner Sat. at 5:30. L - (\$1.25 - \$4.25); D - (\$4 - \$10). Weekend reservations advised.

Boswell's Restaurant, Rte. 202, Buckingham. 794-7959. Dine in a congenial colonial atmosphere on such fine eatables as Duck or Flounder stuffed with Crabmeat. Lunch platters & sandwiches from \$1.95. Dinner platters \$3.95 - \$7.50. Children's Menu.

Brugger's Pipersville Inn, Rtes. 413 & 611, Pipersville. 766-8540. Country dining in the fine old Bucks County Tradition, serving such dishes as Pie Eyed Shrimp (Shrimp in beer batter), Roast Duckling, Crabmeat au Gratin. Children's Menu. Cocktails served.

Chez Odette, S. River Road, New Hope. 862-2432, 2773. The restaurant was once a barge stop on the Delaware Canal and is now a unique country "bistro" with Aubergiste Odette Myrtil. The French cuisine includes Steak au Poivre, Trout stuffed with Escargot, Crepes stuffed with crabmeat or chicken. Features a daily gourmet luncheon buffet at \$3.75. Cocktails served. Lunch 12-3, Dinner 6-10:30. Closed Sunday.

The Copper Door North, Rte. 611, Warrington. DI 3-2552. Creative menus for outstanding food and drink, in a comfortable atmosphere, include such specialties as Steak Soup, Seafood Feast Stregato, freshly baked bread and Chocolate Mousse Pie. Drinks are giant-sized and delicious, whether you order a "Do-It-Yourself" Martini, a Mocha Mixer or a Gin Jardiniere topped with crisp vegetables. Dinners include soup, salad, bread, potato or Linguine in a choice of special sauces from \$4.95 to \$9.50. Daily specials featuring such dishes as Surf, Turf & Barnyard - Filet, Lobster Tails & Bar-B-Qued Ribs are \$6.95.

Conti's Ferndale Inn, Rt. 611, Ferndale, Pa. 847-5527. Excellent family dining in a casual atmosphere. Cocktails, luncheons, dinner at reasonable prices. Closed Tuesday.

Goodnoe, Farm Dairy Bar, Rts. 413 & 532, Newtown. 968-3875. 19 years of excellent food for family enjoyment. Our own top quality home-made ice cream & pies. Phone orders for take-out pies. Breakfast from 6 a.m. daily. Lunch from 11 a.m. Restaurant closes at 11 p.m.

Golden Pheasant, Route 32 (15 mi. north of New Hope on River Rd.), Erwinna. 294-9595, 6902. The mellow Victorian atmosphere of this old inn on the Canal serves as the perfect inspiration for a relaxed, aristocratic meal. You may begin with Escargots and proceed to pheasant from their own smoke oven, steak Diane or Duckling. Dining in the Greenhouse is especially pleasant. Wine & Cocktails of course. Dinner 6-11, Sunday from 4 (\$5.75 - \$9.50) Closed Monday. Bar open 5-2. Reservations required.



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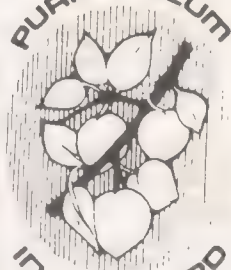
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Continued from page 16

Christian Church since the time that he sketched it, and the time that I observed it.

I heartily recommend this book for anyone that has an appreciation for history, art, the quiet peaceful calm of backroad scenery and as an excellent reference guide for a trip to New England. In fact, I would go so far as to say, that if any one produced a book, "Back Roads of Bucks County," I would hope that it would be Earl Thollander.

W.B. ■

ARTIST'S MARKET, 9933 Alliance Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, 480 pp., \$8.95

There are many talented people in Bucks County and those with a flair for art and photography shouldn't be without this new book.

A companion volume to *Writer's Market*, *Artist's Market*, has just been published. The book gives artists, craftsmen and photographers the specific art requirements of 2,123 buyers.

In each case, the art buyer himself describes the kinds of art or photography he seeks and the rates he pays for it.

The book is divided into 35 categories such as magazine and book publishers, audiovisual firms, advertising agencies, fashion firms, medallic art firms, etc. Each category includes at least one illustration of the specific types of art or photography bought by buyers included in that category.

The volume also includes Copyright Information on art, cartoons, comic strips and photography, as well as a Glossary, a comprehensive list of art, craft, or photography-related Trade Magazines and Professional Associations, and a complete index. ■

OCEANOGRAPHY, THE LAST FRONTIER edited by Richard C. Vetter. Published by Basic Books, Inc., New York, 1973.

The introduction of this book is written by Jacques Costeau, a name well known by "non-oceanographers." He describes the sea, thus revealing that the oceans cannot be studied by one kind of scientist but that many people from many different areas are needed. It seems that this would be the best approach to writing a book about oceanography, and this is what has been done in *Oceanography*. The book has been written by thirty of the best people in the field of oceanography.

The emphasis of the book is that much is to be learned and consequently much to be gained by exploring the oceans and essential to this is international cooperation. In 1968, the United States proposed an International Decade of Ocean Exploration as part of this effort. *Oceanography* originated from a series of Voice of America "Forum Lectures" from 1969 to 1970.

The layout of the chapters begins with the evolution of the oceans, geography, geology, and life of the oceans and concludes with a look at the future.

A very informed view of what the ocean will mean to us in terms of resources of all types is told and this alone is something everyone should be aware of. A good background in the current knowledge of the oceans can be gained by reading this comprehensive book. S.W.M. ■

"At the Foot of A Broken Tree"

by Gimone Hall

Not long after Bill and Joan Levine bought their log house on Cold Spring Creamery Road, they were awakened one night by a commotion at the foot of their drive. Looking out the window, they saw flashlights waving. But the visitors were not prowlers. They were only filling jugs with water from a spring near the roadside.

The spring draws several enthusiasts a day, and of any half-dozen who stop, Bill says it's likely three will be local and three will be from anywhere in the county. People have come from as far away as Levittown and Bristol. Residents of a trailer park in Cornwells Heights make regular trips. The water at the park is bad, but an old-timer in one trailer remembered where water was really good.

Some tell the Levines they have been coming to the spring for as long as thirty-five years, and they make all sorts of claims for the water, say the Levines. "It's supposed to be good for stomach ailments, ailments of just about any kind," Bill says with a grin.

The spring is described in an 1880 deed as being at the foot of a broken tree in the northern part of the Lumberville and Doylestown Road and as having been there for a "long time." The Cold Spring Dairymen's Association, taking its name from the spring, kept a pumphouse with a floor over the spring in those days and piped its water under the land of George G. Mill to the creamery building. The Spring also fed a pond from which the dairymen cut their ice in the winter.

Though the dairymen's association ceased operation in 1917, the fieldstone creamery building still stands today by the side of the road, which has changed names to honor the spring. The rock-lined pond reflects hemlock and willow, and a gazebo-like bridge leads to its edge across a small, busy stream.

The pump and pumphouse are gone. Just outside the Levines' white rail fence, the spring flows toward the stream from a moss-covered pipe which was necessary to save it when the road was widened.

Once after work on the road the Levines discovered the roadmaster tenderly shoveling out the debris with which a careless or unknowing crew had covered it. Long ago his doctor had recommended the water.

Do the Levines mind the intrusions? "Well, we think we ought to bottle it and sell it sometimes," they laugh. But all in all, the spring adds to a feeling of community. The Levines like that. And they like their house with its huge fireplace and log-beamed ceilings, to which they moved two years ago from Point Pleasant. They like their land nestled near woods, fields and farms.

But the peaceful scene will be altered shatteringly if developers have their way. Herbert Barness, Robert H. Yaroschuk and Claude J. Schlanger plan 4500 apartments and townhouses for their properties in the immediate neighborhood on Cold Spring Creamery Road. What effect development may have on the spring can only be guessed. No one knows exactly where the pipe leads, where the spring actually surfaces. For the moment the clear water flows on, as it has through so many other changes, a small source not only of water, but of continuity from past to present and hopefully, the future. ■

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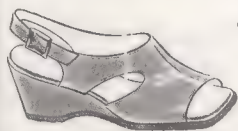
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Rambling with Russ

by
A.
Russell
Thomas

DOYLESTOWN IN 1833

AMONG SOME old library clippings this Rambler came across was an article that appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*, Philadelphia, dated October 12, 1833. The *Post* correspondent elaborated on Doylestown, the home of the editorial office of *Panorama*, as follows:

"A correspondent begs leave to observe that during a short excursion into the country he spent a few days at Doylestown, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, delightfully situated on a commanding eminence, where the air is pure and salubrious, and everything is of the most inviting kind. Society is refined, social and literary; and a most commendable spirit of enterprise and improvement was observable all over the village. There was in progress a handsome Banking House and twenty neat dwelling houses and other buildings. In passing up Court Street soon after I entered the town, I observed (nearly opposite the Court House), a conspicuous sign with the following inscription: "CITIZENS TEMPERANCE HOUSE." The House having a neat external appearance, I walked in, and found the interior to correspond with the exterior. Wishing to show my approbation, and encourage temperance inns, for the accommodation of travellers, I put up there. It was Court Week, the House was nearly full of company, yet it was as quiet as a private dwelling.

"Doylestown is becoming one of our handsome inland villages, and a very desirable situation for gentlemen of fortune, who are seeking retirement from the busy scenes of city life."

OUR FIRST MAGNETIC Telegraph: It was Wednesday, January 7, 1846, that the batteries were set up in Doylestown, and in operation by the next morning and messages transmitted. This was the first transmission of messages in Bucks County, and probably in the Delaware-Schuylkill peninsula, as it was the earliest line built across it. When the first replies over the wires in response to a message were received there were not a few who declared the whole thing "a darned humbug", an effort to impose on country people."

DOYLESTOWN, A SUMMER RESORT: Back as early as 1843 newspapers repeated their invitations for city folk to come out and spend some time with their country cousins. The appeals were not in vain. At that time the seaside and mountain and lake system of resorts had not been invented, and, when people desired to escape the summer heat of the city, they visited the near resorts in the country, which they could reach by stage, the only way of getting there. The Doylestown hotels, for several years, were crowded with city boarders, and the village was gay with company. A pleasant class of people resorted here.

Among the strangers, from a distance, who came in the summer were James Gordon Bennett, of the *New York Herald*, and wife. They were here three seasons, boarding at the "Doylestown Hotel," later on the Fountain House and now the Doylestown office of the Girard Bank.

The Bucks County Intelligencer sang the borough's praises by saying: "Who has not heard of the Vale of Cashmere sings the poet; who has not heard of Doylestown?" The praises of the village are then sung in varied strains, one of its chiefest virtues being that "The stage runs daily and weekly through the borough to Philadelphia and Easton, besides we are incorporated and have a vigilant police." Again:

"We do not mean to boast of the many inducements held out in the way of rural scenery, fine hunting and fishing grounds, elegant drives, fine accommodations at cheap rates, pure water for the temperate, mint and ice for those who live upon vegetable diet, etc. Suffice it to say we hold an elevated position as a resort for city folks. Come up and see."

* * *

LINCOLN HERE 100 Years Ago: The news that Lincoln was coming through Bucks County aroused everyone to a high state of expectancy. He had left his home in Springfield, Ill., on February 11th for the long and circuitous route to Washington for an inaugural. Ten days later on February 21, he arrived in Trenton, where he was met by the Governor and where he spoke to the State Legislature. In Bucks County, thousands of persons stood along the railroad near the Delaware River and at Tullytown anxiously awaiting the arrival of the special train. At Bristol, where the President-elect had a scheduled stop, the depot was crowded with thousands of local residents and many hundreds of children who had no school that day. It was about 3 P.M. that Thursday afternoon when the President's train approached, decked out in flowers and flags. The train came to a halt, and Lincoln stepped out on the back platform of the rear car, bowing to the excited crowd. He raised his hands to hush the throng and spoke a few words of greetings.

Surprisingly, Lincoln's visit didn't impress some local Bucks County editors according to a few lines on inside pages headline in small type, "Lincoln in Bucks" and "Mr. Lincoln in Bristol." The following day in Philadelphia, Lincoln raised a new American Flag of thirty-four stars in commemoration on Washington's Birthday and delivered an historic speech.

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THE RED LION

Site of the 1799 Tax Rebellion

by Nancy L. Wylie



Taxpayers in 1799 were no more pleased with their financial burdens than today's citizens are, but a tax protest in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in that year nearly cost some Pennsylvanians their lives.

Only a last-minute presidential pardon left the specially constructed gallows at Quakertown's Red Lion Hotel, built in 1750, unused. The old structure, still in use today, is one of the town landmarks. Recently sold at auction for \$62,000, the Red Lion will be maintained in a manner befitting its fine old qualities, the new owner says.

Joseph C. Zoll of Upper Darby, a Philadelphia suburb, purchased the hotel from its former owner, his father-in-law John Tillger. He says he will remodel the building somewhat and add a restaurant to the barroom. "It's a wonderful old building," Zoll says, "and we want to keep it that way. It's going to be run well."

An unpopular window tax based on the total number of panes in a building was the cause of Fries' Rebellion, mentioned in Pennsylvania and other history books. Panes were commonly arranged in the 1700's in a six-over-six or 12-over-nine pattern.

John Fries, an auctioneer who lived in Milford Township, near the Montgomery County boundary, decided to lead a protest against the levy, which reportedly amounted to as much as a dollar a house, real money in those days.

Assisted by two other area residents, Frederick Haney and John Getman, the 50-year-old Fries, father of 10 children, is said to have collected quite a following of local citizens in Bucks, Berks, Lehigh and Northampton counties, in the heart of southeastern Pennsylvania.

When news of citizens' refusal to pay the window tax reached the John Adams administration, assessors were sent into the green and picturesque Bucks County countryside to inform the protesters they were breaking a federal law.

Fries, his two compatriots and a band of other men gathered on March 3, 1799, and attempted to capture three of the federal agents at an inn in the little village of Trumbauersville, but the federal men escaped through a back door and rode off.

Not to be put down, the following day Fries led a gang of about 100 men, armed with guns and clubs, into Quakertown, founded as an early Quaker settlement

and now the largest community (about 8,000 population) in Upper Bucks. Two assessors rode boldly into the rebellious crowd in front of the Red Lion, where they were promptly captured and their warnings summarily ignored. The federal men were told to get out and stay out.

Spreading to neighboring communities, with Fries always a prominent figure, the tax rebellion took on the name "Hot Water War" as annoyed housewives resorted to pouring hot water from upstairs windows on the tax collectors below when they came to call.

As matters thus became progressively worse from the government's point of view, a federal marshal in Easton issued arrest warrants for the rebel leaders. A number of them, Fries not included, were seized and jailed in Bethlehem.

When he heard this, Fries and some 140 followers marched into Northampton County to rescue their imprisoned comrades. They arrived in front of the Sun Inn in Bethlehem to find a crowd of about 400, the federal marshal and 20 deputies awaiting them.

When Colonel Nichols, the marshal, refused Fries' demands for release of the prisoners, the crowd launched an attack on the jailhouse, battering the bolted doors so severely that Nichols, in an attempt to avoid bloodshed, yielded to his deputies' pleas to let the prisoners go. Released they were and marched off triumphantly with Fries and his country army.

On March 12 President Adams issued a proclamation warning citizens not to take part in the rebellion. The War Department ordered out 1,000 militiamen from southeastern Pennsylvania. The troops assembled at the village of Springhouse, Montgomery County, about 22 miles from Quakertown, and began their march up Bethlehem Pike, now Route 309, the major traffic artery between Philadelphia and Allentown.

At Sellersville it was learned that Fries was to be the auctioneer at a sale near Quakertown, and the troops set off to take him into custody.

As the story goes, Fries was auctioning off a shovel when someone spotted the approaching soldiers and yelled out a warning. Dropping the shovel and jumping down from the barrel on which he

stood, Fries disappeared into the neighboring woods. After close pursuit, he was apprehended in Bunker Hill village, where his hiding place was betrayed by a bark from his dog, Whiskey.

Fries was placed under arrest and taken to Philadelphia for trial. Haney and Getman gave up a short time later and were also jailed. The three were found guilty on May 15 on charges of treason and sentenced to be hanged "at the Red Lion crossroads" in Quakertown.

The gallows were erected and three nooses were strung up. But the president issued an execution eve pardon, and the Quaker community returned to quieter matters.

Prior to these events, Fries had been a militiaman himself, participating in the quashing of the Whiskey Rebellion, another taxpayers' protest that broke out in western Pennsylvania. He is also reported to have led a band of neighbors against a British foraging party that was stealing cows in the area near his home. The thieves were captured and the cows retrieved at Flourtown, according to records of the Quakertown Historical Society.

The white plaster, green-shuttered Red Lion Inn was Quakertown's first tavern, built in 1750 on Green Street, now called Main Street. Enoch Roberts, the builder, lived in a house on West Broad Street nearby, later owned by a local restaurateur and still later the home of a former president of the town historical society.

The Red Lion's first innkeeper was Walter McCoole, who also is known as builder of the area's first mill in 1734.

Just down Broad Street from the Red Lion crossroads is Liberty Hall, built about 1772, where the Liberty Bell was hidden overnight on its journey from Philadelphia to Allentown to escape the clutches of the British troops Sept. 22, 1777. It is believed that John Jacob Mickley, driver of the wagon in which the symbolic bell was hidden, stayed that night at the Red Lion.



Also located nearby are the Richland Library, still in use since its construction in 1795, and the Richland Friends Meetinghouse, organized in 1721, oldest building in the area.

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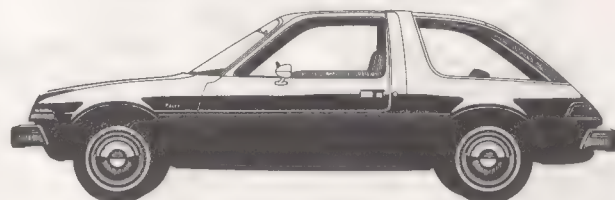


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COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

Back copies of *Panorama* are still available for \$.60 each, postpaid. The number is limited. A wealth of interesting historical articles, old pictures of Bucks County, and other articles are contained in each issue.

Feature articles in 1970 include:

- Jan. — *Remember those Trolleys*
Bucks County Clockmakers
- Feb. — *Washington in Bucks County*
The Other Buckingham
- Mar. — *The Bolton Mansion*
John Fitch
- Apr. — *Radcliffe Street, Bristol*
New Hope and Ivyland Railroad
- May — *Facts about Bucks County*
Yardley Artist
- June — *New Hope Issue*
- July — *Morrisville*
A Colonial Highway
- Aug. — *Wooden Indians*
New Hope Auto Show
- Sept. — *The First National Spelling Bee*
Bucks County Almshouse
- Oct. — *Bristol*
Fallsington Day
- Nov. — *Newtown Issue*
- Dec. — *A Delaware Indian comes Home*
Women's Lib in Bucks County

Feature articles in 1971 include:

- Jan. — *Gravestone Rubbing in Bucks County*
Hartsville Civil War Hero
- Feb. — *Rock Ridge Chapel*
Bucks County's Ringing Rocks
- Mar. — *Lenni Lenape Recipes*
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Sept.	—	<i>The Tyler Estate</i> <i>New Hope and Ivyland Railroad</i>
Oct.	—	<i>Fallsington</i> <i>Phillips Mill</i>
Nov.	—	<i>The Quakers' Town</i> <i>Newtown Day</i>
Dec.	—	<i>Sachem of the Delawares</i> <i>Bucks County Soldiers</i>

Bucks County PANORAMA
The Magazine of Bucks County
50 East Court Street
Doylestown, Pa. 18901

DOYLESTOWN continued from page 3

parking areas and the great variety of stores and services. This committee will discuss additional night hours, possible promotions such as Farmers markets along the streets and additional Christmas activities.

Sometimes it appears that various groups are spending all their time on long-range projects but the truth is that these fundamental programs are never "finished" — do you know any town that has "enough" parking — all the beautification they need — or is doing all the promotions that everyone wants them to do?

A recent news story covered discussions the County Commissioners are holding which will have a tremendous effect on Doylestown — it will be "good news" or "bad news." This is the basic decision as to where to place new County office buildings and even new Court room space. It would appear that the view looking toward movement to the Edison area has been winning until recent days — now, another look is being taken at the three County parking lots in Central Doylestown. A decision to build on at least one of these lots is vital to Doylestown's comprehensive planning. Most of the buildings around the present Court House have been remodelled over the years to accommodate professional offices. Many stores and restaurants have aimed their services toward the County employees and visitors. The County complex is Doylestown's largest "industry" and the interdependence that has grown through the years must not be allowed to disintegrate without strong presentations from our Council and volunteer groups.

So — Doylestown Today is the vortex of change. There is strong economic base to build on but leaders must step forward at this critical time. I see — from my 30,000 foot vantage point — the same people coming to the surface who put Doylestown ahead in 1964. And Doylestown will continue to be the heart of Central Bucks. ■

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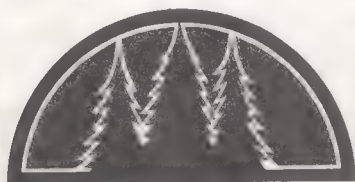
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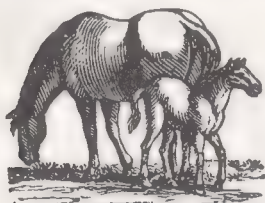
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Horse Talk



THE CONTROVERSY OF USING TRANQUILIZERS ON HORSES

by Mac Cone

Our regular feature of "Horse Talk" returns from winter vacation with a new columnist — Mac Cone.

Mac is a candidate for the U.S. Equestrian Team and can be seen astride his mighty steed at the Pine Run Equestrian Center, just outside of Doylestown.

Ed.

As the horse population has steadily grown in the U.S., so has the use of tranquilizers. Due to the very delicate temperament of horses, man, for the purpose of sale, show, vanning, or grooming, leans on the use of tranquilizers as an aid and in many cases as a crutch.

There are many opinions concerning the use of tranquilizers. The main controversy seems to be with the use of tranquilizers in the show ring. It is a well known fact that a large percentage of show ring horses are under the influence of a tranquilizers while performing.

Why do trainers use tranquilizers to such an extent, even with the risk of being barred from shows or in some cases, jail sentences? Tranquilizing horses for showing does save time. It is much easier for a trainer to go down the line and give each of his horses a "hit" rather than being bothered

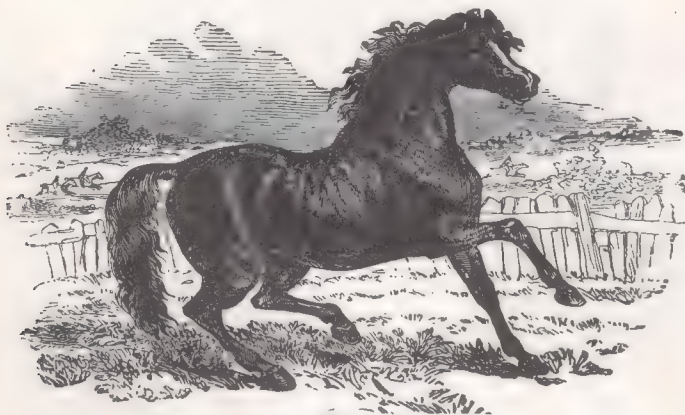
with early morning workouts. Horses that do not receive lunge line work, by the hours, for temperament settling reasons, stand a better chance of staying sound. Also, in some cases, the use of a tranquilizer can relax a horse to such a degree that he will actually move across the ground and jump his fences in a better style. This does not imply that drugging an untalented, "bad jumping," horse will make him a good horse; it merely makes a good horse more "rideable" which makes him an even more powerful competitor. This brings us to the other side of the issue.

What is the sport of showing and riding horses all about? Has the sport turned into a mass production of tranquilized show stars; ridden, trained, bought, and sold, by a handful of horsemen who do not have the desire, time, or in many cases the ability to function without its use? The use of tranquilizers for show ring purposes, totally destroys the concept of the "art" of riding.

One of the hardest and most painstaking processes of riding is learning to deal with a horse's temperament. Why should a rider or trainer who has the ability to deal with a difficult temperament be equalized by a less talented person who merely owns a needle and bottle of "the juice." It also seems that the young horsemen coming through the ranks should be taught sportsmanship, the art of riding and understanding horses, rather than how much tranquilizer to use.

Due to poor attempts at policing and testing for drugs, many people are unaware of the problem. However, in some cases horses can become very ill, lose weight, lose their color, and even die from overdose or a bad reaction to such drugs.

There is a need first of all for strict enforcement of all drug rules. The situation as it is leaves everyone unhappy. The health of many valuable animals and safety of all concerned is directly affected by this issue. Everyone who goes into the show ring should be on equal ground with his competitor. Then when the ribbons are pinned, the blue goes to a true winner.



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BOOKS continued from page 32

ATLAS OF ANCIENT ARCHAEOLOGY, edited by
Jacquetta Hawkes. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New
York, New York. 1975, 272 pp. \$19.50.

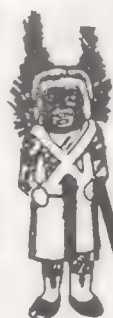
Most of our readers are deeply interested in history — and many have travelled widely. While few except professional archeologists would either desire or be able to visit all the 170 sites listed in this atlas, we think this book still is more than an armchair tour guide. We have seen the Great Wall of China, Stonehenge, Megiddo, Byblos, Jericho, Jerusalem, Giza, Sakkara — and all are in the book well done with a fascinating page to each. But we hope there will be a sequel for the even more significant sites of classical antiquity. Masada and Petra deserve maps like these; Greece and Rome have been long overworked.

The book generally covers significant sites of the periods of prehistory only through the Bronze Age—but actually touches base at Pan-P'o-Ts'un a 5th millennium B.C. neolithic village in China and the relatively modern Inca town of Machu Picchu in the 15th c. A.D. We did think it merciful that there were no sketches of flying saucers or even a description of the guide lines for spacecraft. But here as elsewhere we felt the book somewhat deficient in the lack of historical speculation as to the *raison d'être* of the sites. Art work is superior; however a few photographs would have helped relieve the presentations. J.S. ■

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Calendar

APRIL, 1975

- 4 or 5 **CHALFONT** — Central Bucks Bowling Doubles. Pit-Catcher Lanes, Route 202. All day. Admission fee. *Tentative* — check first with Dept. of Parks and Recreation — 757-0571.
- 5 **PHILADELPHIA** — The Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th & The Parkway. "Run Wild, Run Free" — A Walt Disney film about a 10-year-old child, speechless since birth, who enters a new world of love and communication as a result of his experiences with a beautiful white horse.
- 5,12,19 **DOYLESTOWN** — Three day Beekeeping Course at the Delaware Valley College. Call the college for details: Dr. Berthold — 345-1500.
- 5 **BUCKINGHAM** — Bucks County Symphony Society presents Tschaikovsky's 4th Symphony at 8:30 p.m. at Central Bucks East High School.
- 5 **WARMINSTER** — Choraliers at Log College Jr. High School, 8 p.m. Adults — \$2, Children \$1.00. For tickets call 343-1468.
- 6 **WRIGHTSTOWN** — Bucks County Folksong Society presents an evening of FOLK MUSIC at the Wrightstown Friends Meeting House Recreation Room, Rt. 413.



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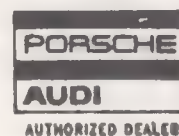
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- 6,13,20,27 HOLLAND — Trinity United Church of Christ. The Carillon is played at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The first 25 bells of the Carillon are the very first made in the United States at Watervliet, New York.
- 6 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Phi Alpha Snyphonia and Choir 18 C. Music. 2 p.m. Memorial Building.
- 6 & 19 PLEASANT VALLEY — Horse Schooling Shows — Pleasant Hollow Farms off Rt. 212 on Slifer Valley Road. Phone 346-7294 for more information.
- 9 LANGHORNE — Rotary Club presents Ms. Jill Ruckelshaus, advisor to the White House on women's affairs in the last of a series of lectures held in the Community Room in the Oxford Valley Mall. Lectures start at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5.00.
- 9,16,23,30 DOYLESTOWN — Neshaminy Manor Center. Home Landscape Clinic — Cost \$1.00, register with Mr. Pope at Silver Lake Nature Center in Bristol. 7:30 p.m.
- 10,17,24 May 1 DOYLESTOWN — Home Landscape Clinic — \$1.00, register with Ms. Katzaman, Neshaminy Manor Center, Rt. 611, 3 mi. s. of Doylestown. 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- 12 PHILADELPHIA — The Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th & The Parkway. "Yankee Sails Across Europe" — A National Geographic film takes you on a journey from the Mediterranean to the ports of northern Europe.
- 12 BUCKINGHAM — Town and Country Players are holding an auction at The Barn, Rt. 263 from 10 to 2. Crafts, art, antiques, junk. Call 345-7771.
- 12 FEASTERVILLE — Unique fashion show and stage show for the benefit of St. Mary's Hospital building fund sponsored by the Northampton Twp. of the Women's Guild of St. Mary's. Full course roast beef luncheon at noon before the show. Music and door prizes. Tickets — \$9 available from chapter president, Mrs. Shirley Tease, 357-4914.
- 12,13 PENNSBURY MANOR — Morrisville — presents annual Spring Seminar. Topic: American Silver. Call Pennsbury for further details: 946-0400.
- 13 PIPERSVILLE — 2nd Sunday Monthly Open House at Miryam's Farm, Stump and Tohickon Hill Road. 2 p.m. Classical Saxophone Ensemble on Tour, Anita Mednick — Piano. Geri Robins — silk screen shirts and other items. Robert Scharding: silk screen.
- 15 DOYLESTOWN — Home Lawn Care Clinic — Bucks County Community College. Mr. Pope. 7:30 p.m.
- 15,16,17 DOYLESTOWN — The Bucks County Antiques Dealers Association, Inc. presents its Spring Antique Show at Warrington Country Club, Rt. 611 and Almshouse Rd. Call 346-7659 or write RD 1, Riegelsville, Pa. 18977 for information. Admission. Groups. Lunch and dinner available.
- 17 BUCKINGHAM — Buckingham Friends School Clothing Sale held in the school gymnasium from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sale includes nearly new clothes, toys, jewelry, records, etc. Everything ½ price after 5 p.m. Route 202, Lahaska.

- 18 to 23 **NEW HOPE** — Annual Arts Festival at Solebury School, Phillips Mill Rd. Free admission. For more information call 862-5261.
- 19 **PHILADELPHIA** — The Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th & The Parkway. "Hunters of the Deep" — Explore the ocean bottom off the coasts of California, Mexico and the Bahamas.
- 19 **HOLICONG** — The Bucks County Opera Association presents Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" at the Central Bucks East High School. 8 p.m. 6th Annual Opera Concert. Tickets are by contribution only by calling 862-2146 Tony Sarge Shop in New Hope; 348-2522 at Cole, Kahan and Robinson; 536-6820 at the Quakertown Free Press in Quakertown.
- 19 **HILTON INN, Northeast** — Saint Mary Hospital Dinner-Dance. 6:30 p.m. Contact Mrs. J. Binder 757-6610 for tickets or information.
- 19 **NEWTOWN** — Bucks County Community College Cinema Series at 8 p.m. Library Auditorium. "Zabriskie Point" an outsider looking at America.
- 20 **BRISTOL** — Open House for Senior Citizens at the Margaret R. Grundy Library, Radcliffe St. from 2 to 5 p.m. Film, refreshments, crafts and demonstration displays. Call 788-7891 for further information.
- 26 **PHILADELPHIA** — The Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th & The Parkway. "To the Edge of the Universe" — Watch the construction of a giant radio telescope and the dramatic results it achieved.
- 26 **WASHINGTON CROSSING** — 4-H Clubs Paul Revere Ride (Mass. to D.C.) Ceremony at noon Rt. 532. For additional details call 752-2203.
- 26 **WASHINGTON CROSSING** — Scholarship Awards Essay Contest at 2 p.m. in the Memorial Building. Sponsored by the Washington Crossing Foundation. Recipients are students from all over the United States. Essay titled "The Message of the Spirit of '76 for Our Bicentennial Celebration."
- 26 **WARMINSTER** — Symphony Society Concert featuring Melvyn Novick, a tenor with the New York City Opera Co. is the lead in "Cavalleria Rusticana" at William Tennent Sr. High School. Tickets call Paul Hafele 355-3396 or Paul Hand 322-2325 or for additional information.
- 28 **DOYLESTOWN** — Lawn Care Clinic — Neshaminy Manor Center — Ms. Katzaman 7:30 p.m.
- 1-30 **DOYLESTOWN** — The Mercer Museum, Pine and Ashland Street. Hours: Sunday 1 to 5 p.m., Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **CLOSED MONDAYS.** Admission. Special rates for families and groups. Groups by appointment.
- 1-30 **NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP** — National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road. Guided tours — Sunday 2 p.m. Other tours upon request by reservations, 345-0600. Shrine Religious Gift Shop open 7 days a week 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free parking. Brochure available.

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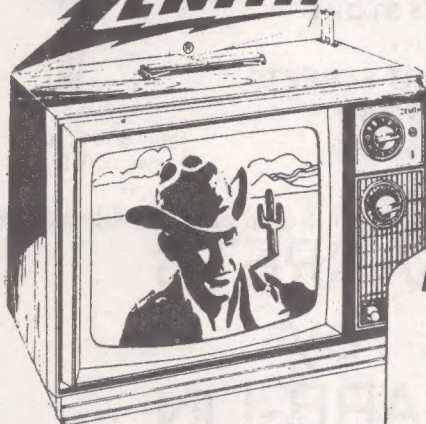
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1-30 NEW HOPE - Bucks County Wine Museum is open daily for guided tours. Closed Sundays. Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Between New Hope and Lahaska, Route 202. Gift shop. Call 794-7449 or write RD 1, New Hope, Pa. 18938.

1-30 WASHINGTON CROSSING - Narration and famous painting, "Washington Crossing The Delaware," daily 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Memorial Bldg. at ½ hr. intervals. Daily film showings, tentative and subject to change. The Nation's formative history is recorded in the collection of books and manuscripts in the Washington Crossing Library of the American Revolution, located in the east wing of the building.

1-30 WASHINGTON CROSSING - Thompson-Neely House, furnished with pre-Revolutionary pieces, Route 32, Washington Crossing State Park. Open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission 50¢ includes a visit to the Old Ferry Inn.

1-30 WASHINGTON CROSSING - Old Ferry Inn, Route 532 at the bridge. Restored Revolutionary furniture, gift and snack shop where Washington Punch is sold. Open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission 50¢ includes a visit to the Thompson-Neely House.

1-30 WASHINGTON CROSSING - Taylor House, built in 1812 by Mahlon K. Taylor, now serves as headquarters for the Washington Crossing State Park Commission. Open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

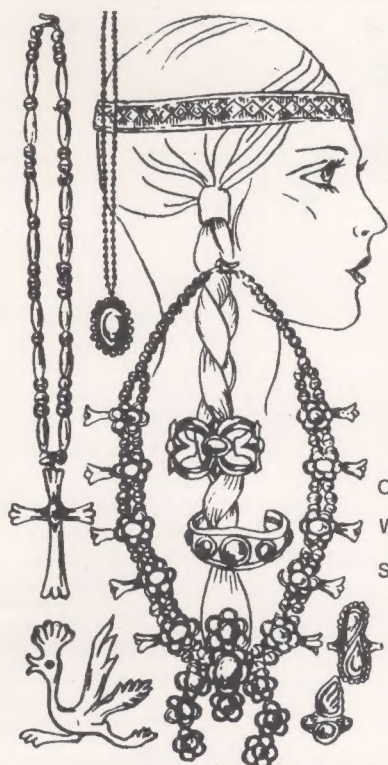
1-30 MORRISVILLE - Pennsbury Manor, the re-created Country Estate of William Penn. Original Manor House was built in 1683. Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sundays 1 to 4:30 p.m. Admission 50¢

1-30 BRISTOL - The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Museum, 610 Radcliffe Street. Victorian Decor Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 1 to 3 p.m. Other times by appointment.

1-30 PINEVILLE - Wilmar Lapidary Art Museum. The Country's largest private collection of hand-carved semi-precious stones. Open to the public, Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Admission 50¢

1-30 WASHINGTON CROSSING - The David Library of the American Revolution, River Road. Open by appointment Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contains a most important collection of originals of the Revolution. Telephone 493-6776 for information.

1-30 FALLSINGTON - Burges-Lippincott House, Stagecoach Tavern and Williamson House - 18 C. Architecture - Open Wednesday thru Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Admission - children under 12 free if accompanied by an adult.



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And WELCOME WAGON policy forbids selling any name to commercial mailing list companies.

We hope this answers the questions you may have had about WELCOME WAGON. If you'd like to know more about receiving a call, becoming a sponsor, or making a career for yourself, now you **know** whom to ask.

Check the Yellow Pages in your area.
And call your WELCOME WAGON Hostess.

